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ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES FOR WRITING AN EFFECTIVE ESSAY

Essay writing is one of the most important writing skills. In college context, it gives an opportunity to students to explore and clarify their thoughts about the topic or subject. The following guidelines will help you through the essay writing process for an effective essay.

1. Choose the topic carefully:

Careful selection out of the given topics is the first step towards success in writing an essay. Topic of an essay may belong to a field, which may be vast, but for essay writing, you should keep yourself limited to the particular aspect of the topic and do not deal with the subject exhaustively.

2. Sort out the facts related to the topic:

Sort out the details of the topic in your mind and transfer them to paper in the form of notes. This mental exercise will also help you in finalizing a topic for an essay and finding out the information related to your topic.

3. Draw an outline of your topic:

After jotting down your ideas on paper organize your notes and arrange ideas in a logical order. Remove those points which are not related to your line of presentation.

4. Give your essay an appropriate beginning:

The beginning of your essay should be such that it should give the examiner the impression that you have a firm grasp of the subject. Beginning should be good enough to launch the examiner into the next part or body of the essay.

5. Follow the basic rules of paragraph writing:

Each paragraph in the body of your essay should contain relevant information and details of the point.

6. Write a logical conclusion of the essay:

Conclusion provides a final view and perspective on your topic. It should emerge from the arguments or discussion preceding it, with simple review of main points and brief description of your feelings about the topic.

7. Use simple English:

Use simple and plain English for writing an Essay. Avoid the use of slang, abbreviations, jargons or any fashionable words while writing an essay. Plain English Writing can help you removing redundant words from your Essay make it more concise and readable.

8. Revise, edit and proofread:

Always proofread and revise your essay before handing it over as a finished product. Editing an essay is required to improve clarity and readability.

9. Polish and perfect your essay:

Like a finished product, the essay should also be polished and perfected to the best of your ability.

10. Personal pronoun and narration:

While writing an essay, try to avoid direct narration as much as possible. Use the first person pronoun and flexible language.

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ESSAYS

1. MY AIM/ AMBITION IN LIFE

"The ambition, if reached or not makes great the life"

(Robert Browning)

Aristotle maintains that man is a goal seeking animal. His life becomes meaningful only when he struggles for his goals. Many people fail in life because they fail to organize their energies and focus on something. People, like nails lose their effectiveness when they lose direction and begin to bend.

"Not failure but low aim is a crime"

My philosophy of life is that we should set our goal and then we should try hard to achieve it. The progress and prosperity of a country is the result of the great endeavors of the dedicated men who have high ambitions in life.

There are as many ambitions as men. Some want to be doctors, others to be engineers. Some crave to be civil and military officers, others to be poets and novelists. My ambition in life is to have neither power nor wealth. I do not want to be a king but a kingmaker I believe only in the well-being of mankind, and that can only be achieved by education and re-education of my fellow countrymen.

"A teacher affects eternity."

(Henry Adams)

I want to be a teacher, no matter how strange it may sound to others. I want to be a teacher of English. Teaching is very different and important. It is of supreme importance to influence those who are going to grow up and matter to the world. There are many reasons for my choice.

"A teacher influences those who matter to the world."

(James Hilton)

Teaching has been the profession of prophets, priests saints and moralists. I have got a good temperament and taste for teaching. As a good mother rears good children, a teacher builds up a good nation. Allah sent our beloved Prophet (P.B.U.H) to this world as a teacher for the whole humanity. I think the best people are those who teach others. Engineers build grand buildings, roads and dams; doctors treat the patients; civil officers run the administration; military officers defend the country, but it is their teachers who make them so. A teacher is an engineer maker, a doctor maker, and an officer maker.

"Fame is the perfume of heroic deeds."

(Socrates)

Some people may ask why I want to be an English teacher. The answer is that English is the language that is spoken and understood by most of the people in the world and it is the Lingua Franca of the world. Books on modern science, philosophy, history, commerce and other subjects are mostly in English. So, if we want to produce good engineers, doctors, administrators and lawmakers, the study of English language is inevitable.

To achieve my ambition, I work day and night. I devote all my time to study English language and literature. Whatever others may think of my aim, I am satisfied with it. In the final analysis, I must say that aims and ambitions are very important to determine a career or profession for us.

"A future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. You only live once—but if you work it right once is enough"

(561 Words)

2. A VISIT TO A HISTORICAL PLACE

"The Earth is full of God's Goodness."

(Richard Ralston)

Events happening to us imprint lifelong memoirs on the past pages of our minds. Naturally, two types of situations occur with us; cheerfulness and melancholy. Humans tend to seek happiness in all their acts. One such act is known as recreational activity. We plan and accomplish such full of beans visits not only to raise the literacy but also to refurbish the aesthetics within. Surely, it would be an icing on the cake if this enchanting spirit is mixed with the love for history.

"History is a cyclic poem written by Time upon the memories of man."

(Percy Bysshe Shelley)

If you want to understand today, you have to search the yesterday. I think no matter where you go, you will be happy as long as you know why you are there. There are places we fear, places we dream, places whose exile we became and never learned it until, sometimes, too late. But I remember the place with fondness and would never forget my one such visit to the Badshahi Mosque Lahore. Places like people are complex, and loving them is not simple. Even places you know well can take on a touch of the unknown when you arrive there from a different direction.

"Your imagination will take you to places."

(L. G. Akita)

Born British in a Pakistani family, I had always a sweet hearing of the historical places of Pakistan. I had an intuitive love in my DNA for my ancestral country. In September 2014, I visited Lahore for the first time. For the people here, the weather was cooler than the summer, but for me, newly arrived from England, it was hot. After meeting all my kith and kin and distant acquaintances, I went to my favorite place The Badshahi Mosque the day after my arrival. No words can depict my feelings while standing in between the doors of Badshahi Mosque and Royal Fort. My cousin made me feel the grandeur of the Mughal Empire by narrating to me the chronology of the site. This mosque was built by Emperor Aurangzeb in 1674. The façade is similar to the Jama Masjid Delhi.

"The more you read, the more you know. The more you learn, the more places you will go".

(Anonymous)

My cousin urged me take a picture of the four minarets of the grand Badshahi Mosque with Minar-e-Pakistan in the background. Each minaret is 200 feet tall. My cousin informed me that in respect and honor of these minarets, the height of Minar-e-Pakistan was settled at 195 feet. We offered Asar prayer there and on our return paid our homage to the Poet of the East Allama Muhammad Iqbal. As Pearl Buck said, 'We are the prisoners of history', so was I (a prisoner) after this treasured visit. We returned home and after one week stay in Pakistan I left for Britain.

**'I visited many places,
Some of them quite Exotic and far away,
But I always returned to myself chockfull with memories.'**

(D. Stojanovic)

3. IS SCIENCE A CURSE?

"Science is a key which unlocks for mankind a store of nature."

(Samuel Johnson)

Some people hold the opinion that science is a curse but I tend to think that it is not. It is the thinking or the use of something that makes something a curse or a blessing. Science is the product of brilliant minds but it is the evil genius that turns a beneficial thing into a harmful thing. Science helps people to do things for the welfare of humanity. Blessings of science can transform this world of ours into an earthly paradise. There are a number of miracles of science that we can see in various fields of life.

"Men love to wonder and that is the seed of science."

(Emerson)

One great discovery is electricity. Electric machines have largely reduced manual labour. Electricity has made things easier for us. Without it our whole industry will come to a standstill position. If there were no electricity, the entire world would be in darkness. Life is not a bed of thorns now because of scientific inventions. Science has brightened and broadened our horizon and acumen.

Science has played an important role in the production of food. There is significant increase in the production of crops due to fertilizers and modern equipment. Engineers have built dams on rivers to provide water for canals to irrigate the fields. So, man has almost solved the problem of food shortage.

"A man of science is just a student of nature and derives his inspiration from science."

(C.V. Romans)

Monsters of the past have been conquered. Medical science has controlled epidemics. It is now possible to operate upon heart and even replace it. Operations of eye, ear and nose are very common. There are useful injections which quickly relieve us from pain and illness. Vaccination has made small-pox a thing of the past. Many other diseases like cholera, plague and T.B. have been fully controlled. Quinine has eradicated malaria.

In the field of surgery, science is touching the zenith of progress. Science has added to our physical comforts as well as our mental and intellectual development. There is a goodly number of sources of communication like newspapers, magazines, radio, television, and the internet that update people about the current affairs.

They help people to know about what is going on in the world. There is more awareness today than it was in the past.

"Science is more stimulating to the imagination than are the classics."

(Holdene)

No-doubt, science is a good servant to humanity, but it is a bad master also. Indeed, it has helped man to solve many problems but the modern scientific progress has also created many new problems. Aeroplanes drop bombs and kill men in thousands. Poisonous gasses, and other instruments of war are all terribly destructive.

However, the 21st century may be called the age of tremendous scientific progress. We are indebted to science for modern comforts of life. It has given power and confidence to man. It is a good servant to mankind.

In the final analysis of the given proposition, I tend to think that science has its own barbs and bouquets. If used wisely, it can bring the blossom of betterment, and if used unwisely, it can play a havoc and cause a mess on a massive scale.

Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination.

(John Dewey)

(588 Words)

4. MY FIRST DAY AT COLLEGE

"Fathers send their sons to college either because they went to college or they didn't" (Hemans)

The change-over from high school to college is not as simple as it appears to be for an outsider. It is really a great change in the life of a young man. College life offers a completely new world of freedom and enlightenment to a student. It gives him an opportunity to train for a career, gives him a chance to socialize with his fellow students and become a responsible citizen. Some days and events leave lasting memories behind them. My first day at college is one of the beautiful days of my life. It is an important day in every student's life. I still remember that day as if it were only yesterday.

This saying proved quite relevant on my first day at college. I got on the bus at 7:00 a.m. to reach college. After five minutes, I was told by a boy to get down. He told me that I had reached my destination. I wanted to enter the building but the watchman stopped me. I told him that I had sought admission but I felt greatly embarrassed when I came to know that it was a girl college and mine was next to it.

Finally I entered college. It was written on my face that it was my first day. A serious looking boy approached me and directed me to the classroom. To my surprise, I discovered that it was a big common washroom. Another gentle man sympathized with me and guided me to the hall where 'the principal' was addressing the students.

"You send your child to the college, but 'tis the college boys who educate him" (Emerson)

I asked if I could enter the class and he very angrily snubbed me and ordered me to say 'I am sorry, sir!' a hundred times by putting my hands on the ears. In the meanwhile, another person entered and all the boys along with 'the principal' sat down. Then I realized that I had been fooled. Now the real principal addressed us. He welcomed us and explained to us the importance of college life. He told us how to check our roll numbers, timetable and classroom. When I left college and got on the bus again, people in the bus were looking at me and putting smiles in a very meaningful way. To my surprise, I discovered that my white dress had become a masterpiece of abstract art.

Thus, my first day at college came to an end, and left behind unforgettable memories.

"All the really valuable things you own are things you cannot photograph."

After the first day, there was no more befooling or bullying. I found the professors very gentle and co-operative. They created in me a thirst for knowledge. They infused confidence in me. The time I spent in college was a very valuable asset of my life. I shall never forget my first day at college.

"It is not the years in your life that count. It is the life that you years"

Hero is a man of ingenious ideas. He has vigour and unique talent. He is a bright star of this generation. I would always remember him. He is like a great leader. Quaid-e-Azam was a great leader. On passing the Matriculation exam, he returned as a barrister. He became one of the leaders of the Indian National Congress. Quaid-e-Azam was a great leader, striving for freedom and working for the freedom of the Muslims to safeguard the Muslim rights.

He believed in the concept of a common purpose and was signed by both the parties. The Congress was not prepared to accept the Fourteen Points at the time.

By 1940, Quaid-e-Azam was a Hindu majority. The Congress passed a resolution to create a state comprising Muslims. On the world map, the position of Quaid-e-Azam became clear. The progress of the country was hindered. He died on 11th September 1947. Quaid-e-Azam will always be remembered in words, "Faith, Unity and Trust".

5. MY HERO IN HISTORY (QUAID-E-AZAM)

"Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime and departing leave behind us foot-prints on the sands of time."

(Long Fellow)

Hero is a man of sky-high personality with an exemplary character, distinctive deeds and ingenious ideas. He must be a man of exceptional qualities of heart and mind, unparalleled vigour and unique talent. The Muslim history is replete with great leaders. M. A. Jinnah is the bright star of this galaxy.

I would always remember Quaid-e-Azam who has served as a role model for the generations to come. He is like a guiding star providing direction to the people of Pakistan.

Quaid-e-Azam was born in Karachi on 25th December, 1876. He was a very intelligent student. On passing the Matriculation examination, he went to England to study law. After four years, he returned as a barrister and started his practice in law in Karachi. Later, he shifted to Bombay and became one of the leading lawyers.

Quaid-e-Azam was a great freedom fighter. In those days, the Indian National Congress was striving for freedom from British rule in India. Mr. Jinnah became its member and started working for the freedom of the country. In 1906, All Indian Muslim League was formed to safeguard the Muslims' rights. Mr. Jinnah also fought for the rights of the Muslims.

"Quality, not quantity, should be the measure of one's character."

(Douglas Jerrold)

He believed in the co-operation and team work. The Muslim League and the Congress fought for a common purpose against the British. It was mainly due to his efforts that Lucknow Pact was signed by both the parties. This pact recognized the Muslim's claim for a separate electorate but the Congress was becoming entirely a Hindu lobby. So, Quaid-e-Azam left the Congress when it refused to accept the reforms. Quaid-e-Azam was a dynamic leader. He devoted himself fully to the affairs of the Muslim League. He presented the demands of the Muslims in his famous Fourteen Points at the Round Table Conference in London.

"Personality is to man what perfume is to flower."

(Charles Lamb)

By 1940, Quaid-e-Azam was convinced that the Muslims could not hope for justice under the Hindu majority. Therefore, in March 1940, the Muslim League, under his president ship, passed a resolution which demanded the division of India. It demanded an independent Muslim state comprising Muslim majority provinces. His sincere efforts bore fruit and Pakistan appeared on the world map on 14th August, 1947.

Quaid-e-Azam became the first Governor General of Pakistan. He worked hard day and night for the progress of the young nation. He did not listen to the advice of his doctors to take rest and died on 11th September, 1948.

Quaid-e-Azam will always live in the hearts of the Pakistanis as the father of the nation. His words, "Faith, Unity and Discipline" will always inspire the people in their struggle for nation-building.

"A man of courage is also full of faith."

(Cicero)

6. VILLAGE LIFE

Village is a remote place having the most natural life and panorama of the charming senses. Therefore, village life is highly cherished by the elderly people all over the world. It is comfortable and blessed life.

"I would rather be first in a small village than second in Rome."

(Julius)

Village life is the scenery of the changing seasons and divine beauty. It also depicts the and cultural values of a state or a province in their true colours and aspects.

"God made the country and man made the town"

In Pakistan more than 60% of the population lives in rural areas. The villagers lead a peaceful life and majority of them are farmers or agricultural labourers. They grow food and necessary crops. Village life is plain and simple. Villagers are contented with necessities although most of them are eke out. They do not want to lead the snug life.

They eat very simple food but produce many edibles for the city people. In fact, it is their simplicity and innocence that they are happy in mud houses.

"The sun does not forget a village just because it is small."

(African)

Village people are very hard working. Early in the morning when most of the people in towns are asleep, village is awake and full of activity. The farmers are seen going to the fields with the plough and the bullocks to till the land.

"If you would be known, not know vegetate. In a village, if you would know, and not live in a city."

(Charles Calver)

In villages the level of air pollution is less than that of cities. This is a good thing for the peace of mind.

"You arrive at a village and in this calm environment (you) start to hear calm"

(Yann)

Caste and customs are rigidly followed in villages. Therefore, most of the villagers follow the trade of their respective castes. They take to different callings of life. Some are oilmen, some are washer men, some are barbers and so on.

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In villages, people take part in fairs and festivals. The young villagers attend folk dance and open air dramas, but the aged of them do not attend the functions. They are happy with their homes and fields.

Majority of villagers are poor and lead a hard life. But they are simple, honest and are very happy as they have no worries and not many wants. In village the people are more considerate and know each other.

For any need or help they could definitely rely on their neighbors at any hour of the need. They are more friendly, more hospitable and more onto the traditional kind of practices and believes. The village mosque maintains their social and moral upkeep.

"A village is such a piece of glass where nothing unobserved passes."

(Charles H. Supurgeon)

Most of the houses in villages are made of mud. They are built in clusters with a common entrance at the front. And people share shallow pond for washing clothes and for watering vegetables and live stock.

In earlier times, there used to be no water-taps, electricity or doctors to look after the health of the villagers. But now-a-days most villages have electricity and water supply and health centers.

Most of the people in villages are uneducated and superstitious due to which evils of ignorance and blind faiths have crept **into** their societies. Illiteracy and epidemics are rampant. Now, it is our duty to find out a remedy. For the improvement and betterment of the village life, mass education and public health are the primary conditions. For the improvement and development of the villages our government should adopt Chinese policies to promote the village life in Pakistan. Villagers should be provided with facilities on the spot, it can stop the migration of villagers to cities.

In short, it is true that country life is sweet one. Many poets have sung the praise of it. Great men and thinkers have spent their invaluable lives in the country sides. Hence, village life has been cherished highly, in all ages by every soulful man.

7. WHY I LOVE PAKISTAN (MY COUNTRY)

Essay Writing

*My dear, my native soil!
From whom my warmest wish to heaven's sent,
Long may thy hardy sons of rustic toil,
Be blest with health, and peace, and sweet content!*

(Robert Burns)

It is quite natural to love one's country. The Eskimo loves his country in spite of its cold weather. The African, living in the midst of a burning desert, is attached to his homeland. I also love Pakistan because it is my country. There are some people who love their own province. There are others who love the town or the village in which they were born. I am not so narrow in my outlook. I love all provinces. I love Pakistan above all provinces. I do not like to be called a Punjabi, a Sindhi or a Balochi. This is against my spirit of nationalism. I love Pakistan because it is my fatherland. My ancestors were born here; they lived and died here. They tilled its soil and tasted its fruits. Thus, I am the continuation of the dreams and aspirations of my forefathers. I am proud of my rich heritage and I am determined to add to the golden traditions of our past. I am nothing without my past and without my country. Pakistan is my pride, my identity and my everything.

Our country is that spot to which our heart is bound.

(Voltaire)

Pakistan is the home of great warriors, poets, statesmen and artists. Iqbal, the great poet of Islam; Quaid-i-Azam, who gave us our homeland; Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who made Pakistan an atomic power; Major Aziz Bhatti and many others who sacrificed their lives for Pakistan; Imran Khan who won Pakistan the World Cup; these are the men of great inspiration for me. The people of Pakistan are superior to the people of any other nation in the world. They have a courage and faith which few people have. They are ready to make the greatest sacrifice when a call comes for it. The sacrifices which they made in 1947 for their homeland are perhaps unique in the world history. No other country has suffered so much for an idea. I love Pakistan for its natural resources. It has rich soil which yields crops throughout the year. Its fruits are sweet and unique in taste. The rivers that flow in Pakistan have given us a fine network of canals that irrigate our fields. Above all, I love Pakistan for the bright future that is sure to come.

To conclude, I must say that I do not love my country if I do nothing for it. If I weaken my country in one way or the other, then I actually hate my country. So, I must make my country strong politically, technologically and economically in order to prove my claim of love for Pakistan. I shall do my best to serve my country when I complete my education. I know that if I do wrong to my country, I shall do wrong to myself. I shall, therefore, live for Pakistan and die for Pakistan.

Oh, God! it is the goodly sight to see what heaven hath done for this delicious land.

(Lord Byron)

COUNTRY)

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(Robert Burns)

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8. MOBILE PHONES

The invention of mobile phones is one of the most significant technological advancements in recent era. Their extensive use has had a remarkable impact on physical, social, economic and health aspects of our life. Some of the impacts have contributed positively to our lives, but there are some aspects that have influenced our lives negatively. In both the developed and the developing countries, mobile phones are the main communication tools in all the sectors of life. All business and social messages are communicated through mobile phones.

The first considerable impact of using mobile phones is the ease of communication among the people. This magical gadget has become an integral part of our life. Unlike the landlines, mobile phones are portable, and one can use them in whichever location one is. Today, most people prefer mobile phones to landlines owing to their convenience and their abilities to send a short message services (SMS). Cell phones help business people do their work by maintaining links with customers, suppliers, business partners and financial institutions. These portable machines have also removed all the geographical barriers and distances to make the families maintain kinship ties with their loved ones.

"There is no wall, no barrier, if we wish to talk to those we love. Hearts send the messages and the very next moment they are received on the screens!"

Mobile phones have made a significant impact on the social life of people. Apart from voice and text services, most mobile phones have cameras, alarm clock, and radio and allow access to the internet. Smart mobile phones are another 'big-bang' in the modern world of information technology. The youth of our country takes advantage of some of these features in a positive manner to organize and maintain social contacts with friends and relatives. They also heavily utilize social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Skype for entertainment. In the recent years, mobile phones carry out mobile money transactions also. Banks have also made it easier for their customers to enjoy all services on the mobile phone screen.

However, mobile phones have come with negative effects to people's lives. These phones have influenced interpersonal relationships and social interactions negatively. Cell phones have increased multitasking, a trend responsible for accidents on our roads. Mobile phones have led to social evils such as immoral and unethical relationships among the young boys and girls. Most teenagers consider mobile phones more important than their parents and families. They would rather read Facebook than novel and poetry in their leisure time. It is really quite disturbing when they use mobile phones in the class rooms. Mobile phones have helped these terrorists and other criminals execute their dreadful criminal activities. Personal lives of people have also been disturbed because of the presence of these machines in their lives. As a modern scholar writes:

"We have been deprived of those moments when we want to be lost and not to be found."
Despite the few drawbacks observed, man has made incredible advancement since the arrival of mobile phones. Mobile phone can be termed as one of the most important creations of mankind which has definitely brought the world together. Proper management, planning and training will enhance the positive impact of mobile phones in our lives.

9. MY FAVOURITE HOBBY

A hobby a day keeps the doldrums away.

(Phyllis McGinley)

Today, man lives in a world where struggle and effort is necessary for survival. He has to work from dawn to dusk. Physical and mental exertions leave him utterly exhausted and enervated after the whole day's work. The daily routine life rusts his talent and efficiency.

Hobby is an activity that a person does for pleasure in his leisure time. Time hangs heavy on our shoulders when we do not have anything special to do in our spare time. So, different people have different pastimes. The activity that I do regularly for enjoyment in my spare time is gardening and I love my hobby. Life without hobby is like food without salt.

I love and like beauty in all forms and flowers symbolize both love and beauty. I have grown different kinds of flowers. These flowers give a fragrant welcome to my guests who have a feeling of freshness as they enter my house. These flowers keep me close to nature. They keep me free from the impurities of heart and soul. They enrich my inner self. My hobby saves me from the tedium of life and serves as an oasis in the vast wilderness of life.

It's the safety valve of middle life, and the solace of age.

(Mary Roberts)

These flowers that I have grown in my lawn are a source of catharsis for me as well. Whenever I am cast down, I come to my 'living' friends and share my sorrows and sufferings. They listen to me patiently and quietly and keep my secrets to themselves. This is a fact that these living organisms listen and respond but we cannot match their frequency. So, in their company I do not feel a communication gap.

My hobby is a healthy activity. In this polluted age of ours, we are suffocating to death. My hobby, gardening, gives me a feeling of pleasure and freshness. I spend a few rupees on the seeds and saplings and give them rich soil and plenty of water. I do my best to keep them protected and my whole house becomes fragrant with their sweet smell. I look after my flowers as parents take care of their young kids.

Plants and flowers also have some relevance with human life. These flowers tell us that beauty is short-lived, and so is human life. I have come to know that it costs us nothing to beautify the place where we live. If we spend a little money and time to grow plants and flowers, we can make our towns and cities beautiful. We can wipe away ugliness and pollution from our country.

Last but not the least, it is worth pointing out that we should never ride a hobby too hard. We should not make a toil of pleasure. In other words, we should not indulge in a hobby to such an extent as to convert it into a dull and cheerless task. A hobby should be regarded just as a mental recreation.

*"Beauty is truth, truth beauty — that's all.
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know."*

(John Keats)

goldrums away.

(Phyllis McGinley)

Effort is necessary for survival. He has to toil and leave him utterly exhausted and enervated, wasting his talent and efficiency.

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With human life. These flowers tell us that beauty is not free. We have to know that it costs us nothing to beautify the world. We have to give time and money to grow plants and flowers, we can get rid of ugliness and pollution from our country. We should never ride a hobby too hard. We should not indulge in a hobby to such an extent that it affects our work. A hobby should be regarded just as a mental exercise.

Helen Keller
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10. MY LAST DAY AT COLLEGE

"The quality of a college is measured more by the kind of student it turns out than the kind it takes in."

(Robert J. Kibbee)

There is hardly any living being who has not gone through ups and downs of life. Actually life is full of bad as well as good incidents. Some of them may be forgotten, where as others leave an ever lasting imprint on the mind.

Write the bad things that are done to you in sand, but the good things that happen to you on a piece of marble

Helen Keller, the dumb and deaf American authoress, holds that we do not value the things until we lose them. Her words echoed in my mind on my last day at college. It was only then I realized how much I cherished the college I was going to leave. It seemed to me as if somebody were drawing my soul out from my body. I must acknowledge that I had spent the most valuable time of my life at college and rightly call it the asset of my life.

On my last day at college, I reached college at 9:00 a.m. to attend the farewell party which our juniors had arranged for us. I went to the auditorium where all my friends and fellow students had gathered. It was for the first time that students were not in their uniforms. I was happy that I had availed myself of college opportunity successfully, but I was also sad because I was going to leave the place I valued highly.

As the principal entered the auditorium, all the students and teachers rose from their chairs to welcome him. The ceremony started with the verses from the Holy Quran. Then one of our juniors made the farewell speech. The speech represented the feelings of our dear juniors for us. It appreciated the guidance we had given to our juniors. The speaker ended his speech with the best wishes for our prosperous and bright future.

Then it came to the entertainment performances by our juniors. They also sang some beautiful songs. I remembered the time when we, the seniors, used to occupy the stage, but that day we were guests and our juniors were our hosts. They were going to replace us and we were departing with fine impressions.

I, the representative of the seniors, was then called to the stage to express my feelings. I recited a poem that I had written for this occasion. In the poem I paid tribute to the worthy professors who had enlightened us and infused in us a thirst for knowledge. I also thanked the principal and our juniors for all they had said about us.

Then the principal made his goodbye speech. He gave some valuable pieces of advice and wished a continued success for our future. He advised us that "purpose of life is to live a life of purpose. As long as you live, keep learning how to live." At the end of the ceremony, we enjoyed high tea with the principal, professors and the juniors.

The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

(Robert Maynard)

We had video cameras with us and we were capturing these precious moments not only in our cameras but also in our hearts. We also took autographs from the principal and our dear teachers. Some of the students took the autographs on their shirts. These were the token of love and remembrance. Then came the time to leave forever. Our hearts were heavy with mixed feelings.

*Farewell my friends, farewell my foes,
My love with these, my care for those.*

12. AN IDEAL STUDENT

"The blackness of the ink of a scholar is more sacred than the redness of the blood of a martyr."

(Hadith)

Student life is a temporary period of life but it is of vital importance. It is the time when the seed of learning and wisdom is to be sown. As a student sows at this stage, so shall he reap in the future. Children are the valuable asset of a nation. A Nation that produces a generation of talented and hardworking youth marches ahead on the path of progress. However, to create quality citizens is not an easy task. It cannot be achieved overnight. The first step for that is to produce ideal students in our schools and colleges. These ideal students would go on to become ideal citizens.

Who is an ideal student? There isn't one definite answer to that because there are many qualities that together define an ideal student. The most important quality of an ideal student is that he takes up the responsibility of being student. He studies incessantly and works hard to ameliorate his/her performance in each exam. But his objective of studying is not to only score good marks or secure a high rank. Beyond that he has a thirst for knowledge, an interest to learn more about everything he observes.

"Learning is like rowing upstream, not to advance is to drop back." (Chinese Proverb)

An ideal student has a definite goal. He strives really hard to achieve his goal. He always wins laurels. His determination drives him fast on the path where common students dare not walk. He keeps pace with ever changing times and keeps himself abreast of the new trends. He attends his classes with a receptive mind. He is hardworking, consistent, studious and industrious in his studies.

*"They toil while other sleep
they dare while other fly."*

(Emerson)

An ideal student is well mannered and he lives in accordance with the strict codes of conduct and discipline. This is the time of life when the foundation of character is laid. It is said: if wealth is lost, nothing is lost; if health is lost, something is lost; if character is lost, everything is lost. A student without sense of discipline is like a ship without a rudder. It sails adrift and never reaches the harbor. He must follow the rules of the school and obey the orders of his teachers. His behavior in school as well as at home should be exemplary.

He is prudent in the selection of friends. He is fully conscious to ensure that no evil tempts him. He knows very well that a single rotten egg spoils the whole basket. An ideal student tries to understand how much he owes to his parents. He realizes that he owes a large debt to parents. He never forgets to look after them when they enter the old life. He must respect and obey his parents.

An ideal student studies with devotion, speaks after thinking, leaps after looking, decides after meditation and serves with sincerity. He is neither a book worm nor a frog in a small well. He takes part in curricular as well as co-curricular activities. He is really a torch bearer of all that is good. But participating in competitions and winning events is not the only big thing in life, and an ideal student knows that very well. Virtues like kindness, compassion, respect, sincerity, honesty, politeness are equally important in today's world, and these qualities are found in abundance in an ideal student. He treats his parents, teachers and elders with respect, and speaks politely to everybody. In times of crisis for his friends, he is the first person to stand by them. He never boasts of his achievements and never gets depressed by his failures. He is always cheerful and maintains a positive approach to life. He spreads hope and happiness wherever he goes.

Last but not the least, an ideal student loves his parents and members of the family very much and does as much as he can to help them and to keep them happy. He never wastes his parents' hard-earned money and believes that knowledge is the biggest wealth he can acquire. An ideal student is one who has the potential to become a great philanthropist. He is not a man with a limited scope. He aims at becoming the savior and hero of humanity.

13. HOSTEL LIFE

The phrase, "there is no place like home" is soon to give way a likely new phrase, "there is no place like hostel." The people, who have worn their days out in hostel, if asked, will regard those moments the best of their lives. Hostel is a palace where one is master of one's own self. Students are free from many social and moral restrictions like parental pressure, sibling rivalry and other social conformities. It is almost as if they grow a pair of wings, and are ready to fly high, to live the life of their dreams.

There are many advantages of living in a hostel. The dweller needs to take care of his own affairs, manage his own stuff, and take his own decisions and so on. This creates a sense of responsibility in him at a relatively early stage, as compared to day scholars who would still be nestled in the warmth of parental care. The students who depend on their own develop a practical view of life than those who are always pampered by parents.

Hostel is boon for those who have a disturbed home atmosphere. Homes are not meant for studies. There is less likelihood that parents arrange a corner for their children to study there. Hostels are purpose-built: these are built for students or job oriented people, keeping in view their needs. Often they are near the places where these people go for study or job, saving their time. So staying in a hostel comes as a blessing in disguise as it keeps students away from all the troubles and lets them focus on more important things, especially studies.

From an academic perspective also, staying in a hostel proves to be advantageous. We are far removed from the day-today distractions and other household responsibilities at home. This gives us a lot of time to spend on studies, and secure better grades.

Besides studies, hostel life provides us many opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities like arts and sports. In most colleges, it is the hostel mates who take up active roles in sports and other organizing events because they can afford time. By getting involved in all these activities, they develop valuable qualities like responsibility, dedication, hard work and problem solving skills, which would stand them in great stead for their future corporate lives.

Hostel life also provides a chance to peep into true nature of one's fellow beings. On duty or in college, people follow a uniform code that provides them an opportunity to conceal their real face behind a mask. But, when one lives in hostel, his roommate judges his true nature that couldn't be otherwise in years. How they wear, eat, sleep either cleanly or filthily; selflessly or selfishly, everything dawns upon. Friend's responses to each other's work as mirror for the wise to improve, develop, and mend behavior.

Hostel life has its own share of dangers too. Freedom from parental control can be advisable only if it is used properly. Students, especially those who have had to live in a highly restricted environment, suddenly cherish the newly found freedom of a hostel. Their only aim would be enjoying. These people often lose sight of what is right or wrong, and end up with disastrous consequences. Some of them are even misled into drugs, gambling and street crimes. Also if the gang they belong to likes to hang out all the time, they too might be misguided. This would take away their focus from the most important objective, study. These are not the only hazards; hostel life has got other disadvantages like bad food, dirty surroundings and lack of proper facilities. In the final analysis, we can say that hostel life is an opportunity not a trial. It develops maturity, confidence and modernity among the dwellers of it. Gone are the days when people wrote letters to their sons to behave sensibly in hostels. Polonius (a character in Shakespeare's play, Hamlet) uttered memorable words of advice to his son while sending him to hostel. But now the children are the trend-setters, for they see new ways of life and expect their families to adapt them. The heart of the matter is to use this phase of life reasonably that would benefit the person in his later years.

14. A PICNIC PARTY

I suppose I would still prefer to sit under a tree with a picnic basket rather than under a gas pump, but signs and comic strips are interesting as a subject matter.

(Roy)

No picnic cycle of life is taking its course and making our lives dull and drab. Picnic is an outing occasion that helps us to get rid of the monotonous life. People all over the world spend a lot of money to have a break from their mundane life. They enjoy themselves by going to different resorts. The time they spend away from their home and offices makes them relaxed and refreshed. They come back to their homes and work place after the pleasure trip with greater energy and vigour. David Daiches says that breaks in routine are blessed ones.

The other weekend I suggested to my friends to go somewhere for outing. We discussed and decided to go to a farmhouse at Head Balloki. It is some forty kilometers away from Lahore. According to the schedule we were supposed to depart from the college campus at 9:00 a.m. We had our breakfast and then our bus left for the destination. Our journey started with a prayer and then began the nonstop fun. We were told that the sound system of the bus was out of order. It was a great disappointment for us, but soon we realized that it was a blessing in disguise. We decided to enjoy ourselves by singing songs. One of us was a very good singer and he amused us with his melodious voice. After an hour we reached our destination. We had heard about the beauty of the place, but we were convinced that seeing is believing.

"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter."

(John Keats)

The pure and cool breeze over there gave us a soothing welcome and we feasted our eyes on the scenic beauty. We sat there for some time and enjoyed the beautiful place. The lake was the first one to attract the visitors. The boats in the lake invited us to have pleasure in water. We enjoyed a good rowing there. We splashed one another with water and soon all our clothes were wet. It was great fun and excitement for us all.

We caught sight of a tube well. Although it was a bit cold, one of us jumped into the pond and we followed the suit. A few of us stayed away from the cold water, but we pushed them also into the pond. We enjoyed ourselves for some time there and then we felt hungry.

We had ordered fresh fish which was the special food of that place. We had a hearty meal which we would remember for a long time. Then we had cold drinks and ate fruit. We also went for the pig-prey. We chased some pigs but we could not kill them because we had no guns or anything to kill them with. We, however, captured these thrilling moments in our video cameras. It was about 5 p.m. and the sun was descending. We decided to leave for Lahore. The journey back to Lahore was a memorable one. We sang songs and cut jokes. At seven, we reached Lahore and got back to our homes after a very beautiful trip.

To sum up, I must say that the excursions and outings play a very important role in the overall development of our personality. These excursions give us a chance to enjoy some moments away from our hectic routine of life. These outings make us prepare to face the challenges of life in a better way. These excursions and outings help us to understand our fellow beings. They also educate us informally. Someone has rightly said

"When I go to travel, I go to school."

(Anonymous)

15. PATRIOTISM

Patriotism, love for one's country and anything attached to it, is an inborn feeling which dominates all other feelings which sleep away with the passage of time. It is cemented as time passes and injects a sense of superiority in its worshippers who feel pride in whatever belongs to their "Mother Homeland". It does not matter where they live and where they go, their hearts beat for their "paradise".

"Such is the patriot's boast, where'er we roam His first, best country ever is, at home"

(Oliver Goldsmith)

Even the birds and the animals possess this quality that they love the place where they live. Migratory birds fly a long distance and return to their original place and prefer to die there. This quality is deep-rooted in Man. He loves the place where he lives. He has some religion, history, heroes, social and political system to follow. In fact, he does not love that particular piece of land, but the way of living in which he believes and adjusts himself accordingly. The way of living which gives him freedom, protection, identity, satisfaction, and the recognition which brings him worldly honor and regard. He loves his country because his wounds are dressed here and problems are addressed and the relatives always ready to unload his grief and double the joys. Moreover, he is brought up at that place and spends the golden period, his childhood, there. That feeling dominates all other feelings because its intensity increases as a person grows up.

Considering his history, traditions, rituals and socio-political system the best, he not only tries to promote these values but also defends these values. In this regard, he willingly sacrifices whatever he can, even his life, for the protection and prosperity of his country.

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

(Nathan Hale)

That is why; the one who dies defending his country is regarded highly.

This feeling creates unity among the fellow beings who live as a family and share each other's sorrows and joys. This sense of belonging develops in them a patriotic spirit which in return urges them to sacrifice even their lives for the noble cause of their country. This feeling excites them to bulldoze all the religious, social and political differences and become a "single unity". Then they live and die for their home land. A true patriot serves his country sincerely and devotedly. He does not run towards other countries for personal benefit. He resists the charms of foreign influence.

"How beautiful is death, when earn'd by virtue
who would not be that youth? What pity is it
That we can die but once to serve our country!"

(Joseph Addison)

Patriotism creates a very broader outlook—that is a person arises above his ownself. He prefers the interest of the country to his own interest. This enables him to look at life from a very broad perspective.

But there is one thing regarding patriotism which should be kept in mind. Patriotism means love for one's country but it does not at all imply the sense of hatred for other country. On the other hand, the spirit of self-sacrifice should be extended to the entire human society. It means that patriotism should teach us love for and service to humanity.

16. POLLUTION

Pollution is the addition of any substance or form of energy to the environment at a rate faster than the environment can accommodate it by dispersion, decomposition, recycling, or storage in some harmless form. It also means to contaminate. It is the bitter fruit of over industrialization which is adding poisonous and lethal elements to environment. We are adding certain things into our atmosphere which are causing harm to our environment. We boast of having made astonishing growth in different fields of life but after paying a heavy price. The speed at which we are mixing these pollutants is alarmingly fast. Pollution spares no one. It ruins everything: human beings, birds, beasts, marine life, soil, air and plants. It can pose a threat to the future of mankind as well.

"You wouldn't think you could kill an ocean, would you? But we'll do it one day. That' shows how negligent we are."

(Ian Rankin)

There are a number of things which are causing pollution. The chief contributors to pollution are: Industry which is adding poisonous chemicals and gases into our atmosphere. Soil and Air both are badly affected by these harmful chemicals. Pollution continues to increase as a result of the increasing number of motor vehicles on the roads. Exhaust fumes from the engines of automobiles contain a number of polluting substances. Most of the substances that are harmful are: carbon monoxide and a variety of complex hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides. When exposed to sunlight, these substances undergo a change in their composition. As a result the substances produce the brown, toxic and smog. All our big cities are the good examples of this smog. Other wastes also play their role in causing pollution like atomic waste, the use of pesticides, and smoke from the brick kilns, fertilizers, polythene, stinking smells and obnoxious fumes. All these are polluting the soil badly. Soil is the natural body made of mineral and organic constituents. It is produced by solid material recycling and complex processes of solid crust modifications. Soil offers shelter, habitat for numerous organisms and is the living medium for plants. Soil is the basis for agriculture. All vegetation for human food and animal feed depend upon soil. Enormous quantities of waste from man-made products are being released into the soil causing soil pollution. Polluted water also causes soil pollution. Soil pollution is caused due to unhygienic habits, agricultural practices and inappropriate methods of disposal of solid and liquid wastes. Soil pollution is also caused as a result of atmospheric pollution.

Air pollution is a problem that everyone should be concerned about. With the growing number of automobiles, and the greenhouse effect problem is becoming more and more of a threat, air pollution is something to be concerned with. Air pollution involves the release of gases, finely dissolved solids, or liquid aerosols into the atmosphere at rates that exceed the capacity of the atmosphere to dissipate them or to dispose of them through incorporation into solid or liquid layers of the biosphere. Dust storms in deserts and smoke from forest and grass fires contribute to air pollution.

*if you get me a rid of Pollution, I will
get you rid of death*

We pollute almost everything useful in nature. Water pollution is the contamination of any body of water lakes, groundwater, oceans, and even underground water is being polluted by raw sewage running into lakes or streams, Industrial waste spills contaminating groundwater, radiation spills or nuclear accidents. The noise pollution is loud sounds that are either harmful to humans and animals. Airplanes, helicopters, and motor vehicles cause noise. Noise pollution can be disruptive to humans' stress levels, may be harmful to unborn people, and drives animals away by causing nervousness and decreasing their ability to hear prey or predators. Human sight is also a victim of pollution. Smoke and smog both are causing it.

The world in general and the developing countries like Pakistan need a whole hearted effort to fight against pollution. Public should be educated about the ravages of pollution and how it can be avoided. Efforts should be made to find alternative ways and means of energy like solar energy and other harmless sources of energy. It is a duty lying on our shoulders to leave a better world for our coming generations.

"Becoming vigilant is the most important and direct change we can immediately make to save the planet and its species."

(Chris Hedges)

17. LIFE IN A BIG CITY

*I've been in many of them and to some extent I would have to say this:
If you've seen one city slum you've seen them all.*

Gone are the days when man's life was confined to a certain locality. He lived all his life in a village or in a small town. Because of modern facilities, distances do not matter at all, and the world has become a global village. According to modern economists, one should live in the capital of a country or, at least, in a metropolitan city. This will provide him with ample opportunities for his over-all growth. (Spiro)

A big city caters to the academic, social, economic and various other needs of a modern man. There are more and better chances for education in a big city as there are numerous educational institutes and libraries in it. There are also better opportunities for economic activity in a big city. There are a number of openings here for a man to rise in life. There are also a lot of opportunities here for enjoyment and entertainment.

A big city has also its demerits. Nothing is perfect in this world. Perfection lies only in God. There is no peace and relaxation here as we find in the country life or in a small town. There is more loneliness and alienation in a big city, and as result, there are more psychological diseases and mental problems. People here live a very hectic life, and they are caught in a vicious circle of getting and spending. Big city life is so fast that months and years pass away like days. Leisure is rare and people do not have time to stay and stare. The world is too much with them.

City life is millions of people being lonesome together.

(Henry David)

A man living in a big city is quite often away from nature. There is a saying that a city never sleeps. So, a big city dweller never has a chance to see a sky full of stars or the beautiful scene of sun rising and sunset. The life style here is often unnatural and artificial. Narrow streets, scarcity of space and over flowing drains make life in big cities problematic. One experiences here all kinds of pollution, like noise pollution, water pollution, air pollution and atmospheric pollution. We can say that life in a big city is a mixed blessing. Although there are more and better chances for economic growth and social uplifting for man here, it is at the cost of his spiritual peace and moral well-being. People live a mechanical life here and they are often indulged in cut-throat competition. They struggle hard to surpass others in their mad race of better life style.

Man's course begins in a garden, but it ends in a city.

(Alexander)

Life in a big city is totally different from the life in a small town. Modern network of banks, government and commercial institutes and many multinational companies are found only in a big city. So, big city life is inevitable for economic and political activities in order to keep pace with the modern world.

To put the pre-going discussion in a nutshell, it can safely be opined that life in a big city has its own merits and demerits. It is a type of rose with thorns. These thorns disintegrate the very soul of our social fabric because most people have their own axe to grind.

*"Life in a big city, though curse we may call it,
Is indispensable to survive in the modern era".*

18. MY FAVOURITE BOOK

Charles William Eliot, an American academic, said:

"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."

Acquiring knowledge has always been man's top most priority. When you open a book, you actually, encounter a new world of wisdom that reorients and recreates you. It's true that the precious words once read continue to inspire and instruct throughout one's life. Therefore, if someone intends to delve into the world of meanings, books are inevitable. Some people go for sci-fi; some opt for children classics and others weighty tomes. I love to read such books that are a creative blend of modern and classical literary nuances, and Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist" is one of them.

Why is "The Alchemist" my favourite book? There are innumerable reasons, but the principal reason is the punch line of the novel that I can never ever forget, the line reads:

"When you really want something, the whole universe conspires in helping you to achieve it."

"The Alchemist" has crossed the boundaries of its native country, Brazil, and has taken a life of its own, creating a movement around the globe. It has been translated into fifty six languages. Its immense popularity compelled me to read it. The day I started reading it, I couldn't help completing it in a single sitting. This story, dazzling in its graceful lingual simplicity and inspirational sagacity, is about an Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago who travels from homeland in Spain to the Egyptian desert in search of a treasure buried in the Pyramids. Santiago surmounted the obstacles along the way to find the treasure. Treasure, the Santiago's dream, is a symbol of 'Personal Legend' and his journey to find the treasure is a symbol of spiritual quest to actualize his dreams. It really inspired me and made me think he who dares, definitely wins. The protagonist revolutionized my thinking and the story taught me to value such things that we have dismissed as childhood fantasies. Thematically this book is rich enough that the reader can't stop loving it, especially this kind of book, which is all about pursuing one's dreams, regardless of any hurdles, and about being spiritually connected to the universe, which is part of us. **Frank Kafka** once remarked:

"Many a book is like a key to unknown chambers within the castle of one's own self."

There is another important aspect of my favourite "The Alchemist", which is its simple language. I didn't find any sort of verbosity in it. Rhythmic flow of sentences coupled with literary niceties is something rare because certain writers stuff their writings with bombastic words. This is Coelho's mastery over language that helped me assimilate the real English sentence structure. Grace lies in simplicity; this is what I learnt from Coelho through "The Alchemist". Here's a quote from the book:

"The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times."

To conclude, "The Alchemist" not only enriched my heart and soul, but refined my language skills also. This great book is my best buddy now.

19. Democracy: A System of Government in Pakistan

As Abraham Lincoln says about democracy,

"Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Democracy is a political set up by the consent of the voters. In other words the ultimate power lies in the consent of people who elect their representatives for governance. It is the wrong conception that democracy is a western phenomenon but we find that Islam gives us the true explanation. The Holy Quran describes to hold mutual consultation and then take a final decision.

At present democracy is greatly accepted by the people all over the world. The economic and social aspects of democracy mean that each and every citizen is made to live a good and meaningful life. Democracy means bridging the gap between rich and poor and eradicating the social, ethnic, racial and sectarian differences, among the people.

"Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in the ordinary people."

Democracy is a great institution and it is practiced in the most countries of the world in two ways: One is Parliamentary and the second is the Presidential. British people formulated Magna Carta which paved the way to democracy. Currently, India is the largest Parliamentary and America is the largest Presidential democracy in the world. Pakistan is also one of the largest democracies in the world, and has completed 67 years of its existence. During the last 67 years military has intervened in the political system of Pakistan. The fault does not lie with army only, but it lies in our political and governmental set up.

"All the ills of democracy can be cured by more democracy."

(Alfred E Smith, Speech 1933)

Democracy has been facing many hindrances in Pakistan. Lack of a true constitution in early years of Pakistan was a major cause of weak democracy. This gives reasons to Military to intervene and to upset the political system. Due to these issues, elections have been delayed several time. Social, ethnic, moral, sectarian and provincial differences halt the continuity of true Democracy.

Man has conquered time and space, but the Pakistanis, are still hovering in the labyrinths of old traditions and out-worn customs. Cast and 'bradry' system has blinded them and they are not able to see the larger interests of the country. They are not able to realize the sanctity of their vote. The use of money, muscle power and influence of establishment has been a threat to democracy.

"I believe in democracy because it realises the energies of every human being."

(Woodrow Wilson)

There is an urgent need of wide and fundamental electoral reforms.

Firstly, there is a need to strengthen our local body election system.

Secondly, Election Commission should be made autonomous and vested with more statutory powers to curb the mentioned evils.

Thirdly, there is a need to check transparency in election funding and expenditures of the candidates.

Fourthly, often the party in power misuses electronic media for its electioneering purpose. For holding free and fair elections, media should be impartial. Similarly, there is need to educate the people. Their awareness about their basic rights is a soul for true democracy.

To conclude, democracy cannot exist in a country ridden with social and political injustice. For the effective and successful running of democracy a fair degree of education or literacy among the citizens is inevitable.

"The spirits of just men made perfect."

(Hebrews XII)

✓ 20. Computers and the Modern World.

A slow, scattered in long distances and lacking in knowledge world of past has largely been replaced by a fast, globalized village and informative world of computers. A computer is a device that can receive, process and store data. Internet further adds extraordinary charms to computers for a modern man.

Currently, computer knowledge is common even among children. A man can get knowledge and entertainment through computer. Knowledge becomes easier to be perceived by computers. Schools, colleges and universities are dependent on computers in modern era. A computer is actually a fast human mind. As P.A Scott says,

"The similarities between humans and computers are more numerous than the differences."

When man's mind attaches to a computer, it commits numerous mistakes in lesser time and improves faster than in day to day experimental life. As man seeks through mistakes, it socializes modern man even in a busy life through social websites and programmes. Society is fast and to shake hand with fast society one needs a fast hand of computer. As Bill Gates says,

"Computer was born to solve the problems that did not exist before."

Computer is indeed a backbone of modern society and citizens at present. Education, business, government institutes and officials, private organizations, hospitals, religious growth and traffic organization all work through computers. Computer has penetrated deeply in every walk of life. Libraries are being run through computer systems. Computer interconnects men, organizations and countries through internet. None and nothing is far even at a distance of thousands of miles contrary to past. Process of inventions in every field has also become faster than ever before. Thousands of inventions are made in short span of time. Computer is a time and labour saving machine.

Computers matter for business, economy, education and growth of a country as such an extent that everything seems to be lame without them. International trade is being developed and organized through computers. Technology also improves fast with the help of computers. Scientists, engineers, doctors and almost all the professionals get great help from computer. Man relies mostly on computers in every work. Seth Lloyd describes it as, "When it comes to their capacity to screw things up, computers are becoming more human every day."

Computers are now essential for youth these days. These are the need of youngsters and happiness for children.

Man can either use a computer for betterment or for destruction of mankind. But it is not the computer rather it is man that causes harm using a genius work of computer for evil purposes. As a sword can either be used to cut a cruel or to cut an innocent.

To construe we may say that computer meets the requirements of modernity. It seems as modern man has revolutionary mind in form of computer and this mind is so much useful that it has become a crying need of every individual and society.

21. CO-EDUCATION

*"Every man has three characters- that which he exhibits,
that which he has and that which he thinks he has."*

(Alphonse Karr)

Opinions are very sharply divided on the issue of co-education in our country. Some people consider it morally dangerous to put boys and girls together at one place to study. There are some people who have firm faith in co-education. They say that it is a great source of betterment for boys and girls at all levels. Co-education at primary level exists in our country but the opposition begins at secondary level.

"Integrity has no need of rules."

(Albert Camus)

Today female folks can not be confined to the restricted orbits allotted to them. Previously, they were not allowed to act and choose according their own wishes. They have rightly claimed equality with men because they constitute the fifty one percent of our total population. As a matter of fact, they have proved to the world that they are inferior to none. Islam and the constitution of Pakistan have stressed the equality of both the sexes.

It is unfair to cherish that co-education fosters foul fusion and carnal pleasures. In fact, when there is free mixing of girls and boys, sex-consciousness will be least aroused. If there is segregation of girls from boys, curiosity is aroused. Students of co-educational institutions never care to think in terms of man and woman. They know only one thing that they are learners.

In co-education system, there are a number of advantages. The girls would not feel shy and hesitant while talking to the boys. The boys will also not drop their head as they address the girls. In fact, co-educational experience is essential for a happy and successful life.

It may be stated that co-education raises the moral as well as the intellectual level of a student. The boys begin to behave more gracefully and responsibly. They will like to appear in their best and neatest clothes. None will like to abuse the other. There is also healthy effect on the girl student. They bid farewell to their awkward shyness and mannerisms. In the presence of boys, they won't like to speak in slow and affected tones which are more womanish than womanly.

Co-education is beneficial because it is cheap and economical. It is financially difficult to open separate colleges for the girls with highly qualified staff, good libraries and well-equipped laboratories. In co-educational institutions, there is a healthy competition between boys and girls, which leads eventually to better results. The girls will like to surpass boys and the boys will try their level best to excel the girls. Co-education seems beneficial for the overall development of personality of the boys and the girls.

"Convictions are more dangerous enemies of truth than lies."

(Friedrick Nietzsche)

22. OUR FESTIVALS

A festival or gala is an event ordinarily staged by a community, centering on and celebrating some unique aspects of that community and its traditions, often marked as a local or national holiday. Mela or Eid.

Festivals often serve to meet specific purposes, especially in regard to commemoration and thanksgiving. Those festivals are associated with celebration and may also provide entertainment, which was particularly important to local communities before the advent of mass-produced entertainment. These celebrations offered a sense of belonging for religious, social and geographical groups. Festivals that focus on cultural or specifically ethnic topics also seek to inform members of community elders by sharing stories and experience that provide a means for unity among families.

A festival is a special occasion of feasting or celebration, usually with religious focus. Aside from religion, and sometimes folklore, another significant origin is agricultural. Food festival is so vital that many festivals are associated with the harvest time.

There are numerous types of Festivals in the world. Religious festivals such as CHRISTMAS, DIWALI, EID-UL-ADHA and EID-UL-FITR serve to mark out the year. Harvest festivals, seasonal festivals, are also celebrated in various parts of the world.

In Pakistan, many different festivals are celebrated throughout the year.

If we look at the "Religious Festivals", we have a number of celebrations

Eid-ul-Fitr is a religious festival celebrated at the end of fasting month, Ramadan on the first of Shawal. It is three days celebration during which time family and friends gather for long meals, the sharing of gifts and religious devotions.

Eid-ul-Adha is also a three days celebration when the Muslims from all over the world offer sacrifice by slaughtering a sheep, goat or cow following the traditional Islamic customs. It is also called the festival of sacrifice.

Shab-e-Barat is also a religious festival celebrated on the 14th of Shaaban. The Muslims believe that on the night of Shab-e-Barat Almighty Allah writes the destinies of all the people for the coming year. On this festival, exchange of sweet dishes and visits to friends and families are held.

Eid-e-Meclad-ul-Nabi (S.A.W.W) is the birth of our beloved Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W.W). This festival is celebrated by all the Muslims with religious enthusiasm and solemnity across the world. It falls on the 12th of Rabi-ul-Awal every year.

There are some significant days in the history of Pakistan and are celebrated by all the Pakistan people. These festivals are called "National Festivals."

Pakistan Day is a momentous milestone in the history of Pakistan movement. This event is held to mark the anniversary of Pakistan Resolution passed by the Muslims of South Asia at Minar Park, Lahore on March 23, 1940. The nation commemorates this day with great zeal and zest to honour the most outstanding achievement of the Muslims of South Asia who passed the historic

Pakistan Resolution resulting in the creation of Pakistan under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

August 14 is another glorious day and a landmark in our history to commemorate the Independence of Pakistan. Independence Day is celebrated with zeal and fervor in all the parts of the country. People from the various walk of life decorate their houses with national flags, and the buildings, city shopping centres, bazaars and all the main places are adorned with flags and fancy lights.

The 6th of September is a golden chapter in the history of Pakistan, when Pakistan, its military forces and people stood united in 1965 in defense of Pakistan. This historic day is commemorated through parades and exhibitions of military equipment in the main cities of the country.

The 9th of November and the 25th of December are also celebrated for the birthdays of heroes of Pakistan Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah respectively.

Some other days have their cultural significance, and they are celebrated as "Cultural Festivals". With the advent of spring, Basant Festival is celebrated with pomp and grandeur in the mid of February every year in the large cities of Pakistan, especially in Lahore. In other words this is a spring festival. People traditionally fly kites on the roofs of high buildings. Moreover, some five star hotels also arrange this function on their roof top for foreigners and high class gentry. They also arrange a variety of dishes with musical concerts.

In the last week of February, a festival is held in Sibi. Traditional sports, handicrafts exhibition, folk music and local dance parties are arranged at this event.

The last week of March, Lahore is known for Mela Chiraghan (the festival of lamps). This is a mega event for the people of Punjab especially for the Lahories. It is celebrated with traditional fervor and activities at the shrine of a Sufi Saint, Shah Hussain. This festival is held outside the Shalimaar Garden, Lahore for 1 week. The festival attracts a large number of artists who mostly sing Shah Hussain's kaafees and dance to the drum.

Festivals in Pakistan can be the major tool to create affection and harmony among the people of the various parts of the country.

23. MY FAVOURITE POET (ALLAMA IQBAL)

"Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and departing leave behind us foot-prints on the sands of time."

(Long Fellow)

The architect of the ideology of Pakistan Doctor Allama Muhammad Iqbal is, undoubtedly, the great Islamic thinker of the modern times and one of the greatest of all times. He is a great poet, philosopher, educationist and reformer. He has made a lasting contribution to human thought. His poetic works have made him immortal.

"The poet's scrolls will outlive the monuments of stone; the genius survives all unless claimed by death."

(Spencer)

The poet of Islam was born into a middle class family at Sialkot. It was under the spiritual guidance of his father that the initial upbringing of Iqbal's mind took place. From the very beginning, Iqbal was a unique child. He started writing verses even during his school days and sent some of his poems to the Urdu poet, Dagh, for correction. Dagh wrote back to Iqbal that his verses needed no correction at all.

"The child's vision leads him to the path he has to follow."

(Claudian)

In 1895, after completing his early education, Iqbal migrated to Lahore. Here, Sir Thomas Arnold introduced him to all that was best in the Western thought. Iqbal did his M.A. in philosophy in 1898, and joined the faculty of Government College. In 1905, Iqbal went to Europe for higher studies. He passed the Bar Examination in 1908 and was conferred upon the degree of Ph.D. by the University of Munich. On his return, he started his practice in law in Lahore. Iqbal's stay in Europe enabled him to study the Western civilization. He could see all its nakedness and shallowness. Instead of admiring the glamour, he became a critic of the Western civilization.

"To recognize the best, you have to see the worst."

(Helen Beatrice)

Iqbal described in his poetry the pitiable plight of the Indian Muslims. He composed his epoch-making poems "Shikwa" and "Jawab-e-Shikwa". Some of his books are 'Bang-e-Dara, Baal-e-Jibrit, Zarb-e-Kaleem, Zaboore-Ajam and Javed Nama. Iqbal's poetry gives a message of universal brotherhood, individual freedom, hope and self-esteem. He believed in the fundamental rights of human beings. His poetry has been translated into many other languages of the world. We shall always pay tribute to Allama Iqbal for his unforgettable contribution towards the creation of a new homeland for us.

24. COLLEGE LIFE

".... a time meadow, grove and stream.
The earth; and every common sight
To me did seem Appareled in celestial light,
The glory and freshness of dream"

(Wordsworth)

The college life an exquisite blend of felicitations, entertainment, greater sense of responsibility and hardwork. Pleasure and work are cheek by Jowl. We attend lectures, go to labs, revise at home and prepare for class tests and monthly ones. During a class, a teacher keeps us busy in the lessons, but he has the knack of creating some humour to make pedagogy **interesting** and relieving to remove stress and pressure from the pupils. Sometimes, we learn that there would be a musical concert right after exams. That is hilarious!

There is great anomaly between college and school life. A school boy leads a life full of constraints. He gets up at dawn, goes to school regularly, does the task assigned on the same day. Whereas, a college student is master of his own will. He may bunk the classes but no one is there to scold him. He may commit mistakes but no one is there to pay heed to it. There is no check on the freedom of a college life. This kind of liberty after the disciplined life of school keeps a student felicitous. College life gives freedom of expression. Every student has the right to give vent to his feelings, both orally and in black and white. He pays heed to the lecture of his pedagogue, discusses with his class fellows and formulate his own opinion about specific topic. He can express his opinion in writing also. Closely related to this, is the freedom of choice. A student has the choice of coming and going, studying or playing truant or wasting time and money. Some

Youngsters spoil themselves when they find themselves in such circumstances. Although they repent afterwards, there is no use to cry over spilt milk.

On the other hand, brilliant students use freedom very wisely and excel in studies and life. They learn all the lessons, revise them at home and play games to refresh themselves for further work. They understand the college opportunity and use it as a launching pad to take off in future.

At school level a student reproduces crammed material on almost all the topics, he does not have his own opinion. However, at college level texts books are not the only source of knowledge, students go through other books to enhance their knowledge and broadened their horizon.

Mischief, disobedience and indiscipline are some salient features of college life. Although there are a good number of decent students, sometimes mischievous ones outnumber them very easily. Therefore, the general concept of a college student in the past was of insolent and unruly one. Nowadays the situation is not as bad as it used to be.

Speech declamations, quiz competitions, debates and sports are also outstanding features of college life. It can be rightly said about the competitive environment at college.

"Iron sharpens iron; intellectual, the intellectual."

These are necessary for grooming the personality. Participants learn team spirit, leadership, cooperation, patience **and** forbearance through such activities. Success as well as defeat is a great teacher.

Consequently, we can say that students learn golden principles through trials and errors, reading, testing, competitions, and social interaction. College life is an opportunity for the students and they should avail it wholeheartedly. The attractions of college life are relishable but they can entrap irresponsible and immature students. However, college life is an unforgettable experience and the student who does not get maximum out of it cannot find **any** alternative in the rest of life.

and formulate his own opinion about specific. Closely related to this, is the freedom of choice studying or playing truant or wasting time and money. Youngsters spoil themselves when they find and repent afterwards, there is no use to cry over spilt milk. On the other hand, brilliant students use freedom to learn all the lessons, revise them at home and prepare for the future. They understand the college opportunity and use it wisely. At school level a student reproduces crammed knowledge, but at college level, a student has his own opinion. However, at college level, students go through other books to broaden their horizon.

Mischief, disobedience and indiscipline are some of the problems of a number of decent students, some of whom are easily influenced. Therefore, the general concept of a college is to groom the character of the student. Nowadays the situation is not as bad as it used to be. Speech declamations, quiz competitions, debates, etc., are part of college life. It can be rightly said about the competitive nature of college life.

"Iron sharpens iron; intel-

These are necessary for grooming the personality of a student. Cooperation, patience **and** forbearance through the guidance of a great teacher.

Consequently, we can say that students learn gold through testing, competitions, and social interaction. College life should be availed wholeheartedly. The attractive nature of college life should not entrap irresponsible and immature students. However, the student who does not get maximum out of college life is a failure.

25. THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY

If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base.

(Dave Barry)

Women never enjoyed the status and respect that they enjoy today. They are playing their due role in all walks of life. Men have only gradually acknowledged their contribution towards society. The concept of a male-dominant society is on the decline now. Women have proved that they are inferior to none.

Women had no respectable place in society before Islam came to their rescue. They were ill treated and had no rights to education, economic independence and inheritance. They were considered the product of the devil. The new-born girls were buried alive. They were also burnt alive with their dead husbands. Islam gave women respect and basic human rights.

Women are playing their role today in different capacities. They enjoy better status now as a daughter, sister, wife and mother. They have social, financial and matrimonial independence. They are no more confined to the four walls of their houses. They now fully participate in the social, political and economic development of the country.

The main responsibility of a woman is to preserve the human race. For this, she has to bear many hardships. She gives birth to children, feeds them and helps them to grow up. It is quite true that great men have great mothers. The progress of a nation depends upon the way mothers bring up their children. If the women are educated, the society is bound to progress and prosper.

"Once made equal to man, woman becomes his superior."

(Socrates)

Women have always played an important role in the development of a nation. In the early days of Islam, women worked side by side with men. The history of the Muslims is full of the names of women who were eminent scholars, poets and Sufis, such as Zainab, Sakinah and Rabiah. They are also entitled to freedom of expression and to put forward their opinions on public, legislative and religious matters. In the battlefield, they nursed the injured, kept up the supplies and in certain cases, even fought bravely.

Some women, of course, would like to choose some profession as a career and earn for themselves. There are certain jobs which women can do more easily and more efficiently than men. They can be very useful and successful teachers, doctors and nurses. By nature, they are polite and sympathetic and can do well in teaching and medical professions.

"A science career for woman is now almost as acceptable as being cheer leader."

(Myra Barber)

The main duty of a woman is to be a good wife and good mother. She is to look after the home and manage it to the best of her ability. She should not neglect her duties as a wife or mother. If she does not do so, the society will go the dogs. Islam and the constitution of Pakistan have conferred upon women an enviable place. They should not misunderstand and misuse the rights and powers given to them. They should participate very wisely in the main flow of life and contribute to the peace progress and prosperity of the country. They should remain peaceful with themselves and with the forces of nature around them.

Nature has given women so much power that the law has very wisely given them little.

(Samuel Johnson)

26. A VISIT TO A ZOO

A zoo is a place where various birds, animals and reptiles are kept. A zoo does not contain ordinary birds and animals which we usually see in our villages and towns. It contains those birds and animals which we cannot generally see. Most of them live in forests. Some of them are brought from other countries also, as they are not found in our country. A visit to a zoo is a pleasurable activity. It is informative and educative too. Zoos are there in almost all the big cities. We have zoos in Lahore, Karachi, and also in Hyderabad. The zoo at Lahore is called Lahore Zoo.

Many people, young and old, boys and girls, from villages and cities visit this zoo. Entrance to the zoo is by tickets. It is open from 10 a.m. onwards. There are separate enclosures for birds, animals and reptiles. Tigers and lions have separate and well protected enclosures. After entering the zoo which has a beautiful garden in its front, one comes across the enclosures meant for birds. One can see there different kinds of parrots, pigeons, peacocks and other birds of different colors and from different countries. One can also see the ostrich, a bird which cannot fly. It is an African bird.

In the next enclosure deer of all kinds, including black bucks, a rare Indian variety, are kept. Then one goes to the enclosure of elephants and camels. Elephants are very huge animals. Camels are the ugliest. Children can have joy rides on elephants and camels. Then one moves on to the artificial lake where crocodiles are kept. Next is the enclosure kept for the zebra and the bear. Giraffe is an attraction for children.

The next is the tiger enclosure. There are Indian tigers, brown in color, with black stripes. There are also two white tigers which are a rare variety. There are a few leopards and cheetahs also. The Lahore Zoo has a separate enclosure for lions where they can be seen roaming freely. One can go in a closed safari park van and have a close look at them.

There are canteens for taking lunch and benches for rest under the green woods. On the other side one can see different kinds of monkeys, chimpanzees and guerrillas which are man's ancestors. Then the reptile section comes where different kinds of snakes are kept. There is a separate enclosure for animals and reptiles which move during nights. The enclosure is dark and has dim light. One can see the nocturnal creatures moving about in darkness. There is a train to take one on ride all around the zoo.

When one leaves the zoo in the evening, one leaves it with pleasant memories of birds, animals and reptiles which are also creations of Almighty Allah and which have a right to live with us in this wonderful world. Man owes a duty to protect all the creatures of God as he protects himself. A visit to a zoo - isn't it informative and educative!

27. THE IMPORTANCE OF SPORTS AND GAMES

Greeks were the first nation who introduced the marathon race and told the ways how to shape the body through exercise and sports. They believed that:

"One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than fifty preaching it."

The chief object of sports is, of course, physical strength whereas game improves our mental power. Sports like cricket, football, and hockey improve physical health and mental fitness can be achieved by games like chess, brain games, Sudoku, cards etc. Almost every game requires a certain degree of skill to play. Skill is a mental quality. Physical vigor alone is not enough in games.

"A sound mind lies in a sound body"

The health of the body is essential for success in life. An unhealthy man is always sad, gloomy and therefore loses confidence in him. To keep healthy, one must take an active interest in sports. Thus sports serve an essential purpose in life because they ensure good health and build a fine physique. If one is bodily fit, one feels capable of hard endeavor and life without endeavor is useless. The great advantage of sports is that they combine exercise with thrill, excitement and sensations. In order that we should readily take exercise it should be made interesting and, as everybody knows, practically all kinds of games devised by man possess a certain degree of interest.

A bookworm who takes no interest in sport is physically weak and all his mental excellence can't make up for his physical deficiency. But we should consider this famous maxim that:

"The greatest asset of a man is not only his physical ability but also the mental ability."

The Value of Sports benefits not only the body but also the mind. Sports develop and encourage the spirit of healthy competition. The competitive instinct is natural in man and demands outlets. Sports has wide scope for the competitive instinct. Matches and tournaments and contests are held to put to test the skill, toughness, stamina and endurance of values of participants.

There are several other considerations which entail sports to an important place in life. It is usually by taking part in sports that we cultivate what is called the spirit of sportsmanship, sense of discipline, capacity for team work and cooperation and confidence in oneself that enabled one to accept a defeat cheerfully. Sports is an excellent means of spending one's leisure.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

Sports are very interesting pastime. They should be organized that they will not interfere with studies of our youth. Life is not all sports; sports should be an only a part of it.

28. UNEMPLOYMENT

Since its very inception in 1947, Pakistan has been facing many serious problems. The problems are hampering the progress and prosperity of the country. Unemployment is one of the biggest challenges faced by the govt. and the people of Pakistan. Unemployment means joblessness of the people who are qualified and fit to do a job. This has assumed gigantic proportions in the recent years. Many other problems and evils are taking birth as the by-product of unemployment.

"A man willing to work, and unable to find work, is perhaps the saddest sight that fortune's inequality exhibits under this sun".

(Thomas Carlyle)

A major cause of unemployment is the lack of professional and technical education. Most of the educated young people are not qualified enough to do a technical job. The degrees like B.A. and M.A. do not guarantee any professional qualification. This does not seem to have any planning to solve this problem. Kofi Anan, the former Secretary General of the United Nations, once said:

"Unfortunately, very few governments think about youth unemployment when they are drawing up their national plans".

Secondly, our population is increasing at an alarming rate. Every year, millions of young people complete their education and enter the job market. But there are not enough jobs for them. Thirdly, bad and inept governance has also played a negative role in the escalation of unemployment. Political corruption, nepotism, extortion, and embezzlement mean that only those people can get good jobs who are in the good book of the politicians and bureaucracy. Moreover, terrorism has broken the backbone of our economy. There is hardly any foreign investment which has aggravated our sufferings.

Unemployment has many serious and far-reaching social, economic and psychological consequences. First of all, it is one of the major causes of terrorism. The jobless youth is easily lured and brainwashed by the terrorist organizations. They are further used to destabilize the country through their nefarious agenda. Secondly, unemployment gives rise to other social evils like beggary, child labour and robbery. As the educated people consider themselves deprived by the state, they get themselves involved in criminal activities like robbery, theft and drug-addiction. If we pick up a newspaper of any day, we find many cases of suicides due to unemployment and poverty.

"Unemployment diminishes people. Leisure enlarges them."

(Mason Cooley)

Tackling the challenge of unemployment is a herculean task. Many steps need to be taken promptly to eradicate the problem of unemployment. First of all, the govt. will have to realize its responsibility of providing basic facilities to the masses which can be ensured by giving people good jobs. Without giving good jobs to the people, the dream of a prosperous Pakistan will be nothing more than a crying for the moon. The rulers should keep the words of Hazrat Umar (R.A.), the second caliph of Islam, in mind:

"I will be held responsible for even a dog which dies of hunger on the bank of the Tigris River." The taxes collected from the public should be used for the welfare of the people. There should be internships or unemployment allowance for the jobless educated people. Furthermore, the govt. should take steps to promote technical and professional education along with formal education. Our education system should be modified to meet the challenges and requirements of the modern world. To sum up the discussion, it may be said that unemployment is a social problem with serious repercussions. The nation especially the govt. needs to deal with it with serious planning and efforts. Only through removing unemployment can we dream of a prosperous and developed Pakistan. May Allah bless us with the courage and resources to eradicate unemployment from our society!

29. IMPORTANCE OF NEWSPAPER

News means information about events and happenings, previously unknown, especially unusual or notable. And *newspaper* is a typical daily or weekly publication containing *news* and opinion of current events, feature articles and advertisements. As the day starts, most of the people usually like to see the world through the eyes of *newspaper* as if it were spectacles to gaze at the world around. In short, *newspaper* is the world's mirror. In fact, *newspaper* plays a very important role as a positive source of learning. F.B Sanborn is of the view:

"The careful reader of a few good newspapers can learn more in a year than most scholars do in their great libraries."

Newspaper reflects discernment of renowned thinkers, reformers, philosophers and scientists by publishing their latest reports, researches, discoveries and inventions, initiated in various fields of life for the learning of quiescent souls.

Newspaper is a vital tool for advertisement as well. It plays a key role in inviting the attention of the public to the general provisions of life. Every Tom, Dick and Harry gets attracted by the colorful presentations and advertisements shown in the newspaper. These advertisements instigate the people to buy things.

Newspaper also propagates the acrobatics of politicians and the world politics. As John F. Kennedy says:

"Mothers may still want their favorite sons to grow up to be president, but..... they do not want them to become politicians in the process....."

This is what the *newspaper* does in its dire consequences. It also mobilizes public opinion on different levels to make the people get in touch with the current situation streaming in the world. *Newspaper* with its uses carries the information to the unreached. From every walk of life, people can get in touch with their desired and required columns. Newspaper usually bears important decisions of courts for the lawyers, new plans of government for national solidarity, commercial news for businessmen, "wanted" for the job-hunting people, making and breaking of political parties, the winning and losing in sports, programs of entertainment in the world of showbiz, advancement in the field of education, articles and opinions of the scholars, innovations in the world of medical science and many more.

Newspaper has its dark aspects as well. It is a double edged weapon and cuts both ways. Sometimes, it misleads the people by publishing false and baseless *news*. It is a moral duty of *newspaper* to give impartial coverage. News regarding social crimes like gang-rape, sex crime, scandals, divorces, kidnapping, murders, indecent advertisements and other such things are an integral part of the *newspaper*. This type of *news* creates a bad effect upon the readers. But as compared with the uses of *newspaper*, these abuses are far less.

To sum up, *newspaper* fights for the just rights of people. It's like a watchdog against the misuse of power, pressure groups and the monopoly of the privileged and powerful people. It is like a thermometer; it records and interprets the heat and temperature of public opinion and reaction. Every person should develop a habit of *newspaper-reading*, because it provides information, learning and entertainment.

30. TERRORISM

"The cries of pain are there and pain understood."

Terrorism is the use or threat of violence to produce fear in people and weaken their resistance. Common acts of terrorism include air plane hijacking, assassination, bombing, kidnapping and murder. Political terrorism is used to gain or keep power. Terrorism is also a form of surrogate warfare. It is a very cheap way to fight without actually going to war.

Terrorism in the United States rocked the world. On Sep 11, when two U.S. planes crashed into the World Trade Centre in New York. The terrorists were killed along with hundreds of passengers and thousands of innocent people in the building. The massive loss of lives made the entire world stand against terrorism.

Terrorist organizations usually work against governments. The government buildings and public places like railway stations, air-ports, trade centers etc. are targeted with bombs and other destructive weapons. The aim of terrorists is to create harassment and panic. As a result, public demonstrations begin and the entire set-up of the country is disturbed. Business affairs come to a standstill and the economy of the country is affected very badly.

There are different causes of terrorism. The Kashmiris are engaged in a holy war for their freedom against the Indian soldiers and the state terrorism.

"Ashamed is humanity of the wounds given by thee."

The Sikhs in India have been committing acts of terrorism to win freedom from India. The Irish people of North Ireland have been terrorizing the British government to gain their independence. The Palestinians in Palestine are fighting against Israeli state terrorism. The chief cause of terrorism is injustice and persecution of the down-trodden people. The wrong policies of certain governments also lead to terrorist activities.

Another weapon of terrorists is to kidnap big guns. The planes are hijacked for the release of the terrorist leaders and other prisoners. The lives of the passengers are put in danger and the governments come into action immediately.

The results of the recent waves of terrorism have opened the eyes of the United Nations. The entire world is against terrorism. The United States has taken extreme steps and declared Al-Qaida organization responsible for terrorism in the U.S. The U.S planes bombed terrorist centres in Afghanistan and inflicted untold losses to the innocent people of Afghanistan. Their main target was Usama-Bin-Ladin. The countries of the world joined hands with the United States to war against terrorism. Pakistan also helped the United Nations in the war against terrorism.

Terrorism in Pakistan is on the rise. Suicide bomb blasts have terrified the entire nation. Many innocent people lose their lives. It has shattered the economy and disrupted the peace process. The Pro-American policies of the government have led to chaos everywhere. Americans have been killing the Muslims everywhere in the world since September 11.

Terrorist activities may come to an end if the grievances of the victimized people all over the world are alleviated. The cruelty against the weak must be stopped to solve the disputes fairly.

Anti-terrorist forces may be established to fight against terrorism in the country. The illegal flow of arms and money from abroad must be uprooted to eradicate terrorism.

"Trampled and divested is humanity by thy brutality and injustice."

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Terrorist activities may come to an end if the grievances of the victimized people are alleviated. The cruelty against the weak must be stopped to solve the disputes. Security forces may be established to fight against terrorism in the country. The money from abroad must be uprooted to eradicate terrorism.

"Trampled and divested is humanity by thy brutality and injustice."

31. 'HORRORS OF SCIENCE'

"When I ponder from the present through the past,
I scream and scream what technology gave
to the men, Nothing, but a loss, what we lost."

(H. G. Bohn)

Present age is the age of Science and Technology. It is generally believed that science is a mixed blessing. It has various uses (its own barbs and bouquets) and abuses. Though the advantages are far greater than its (outnumber its) disadvantages, it has caused a fatal threat to human and animal life, "the atomic war". We cannot forget the dark and dismal aspects of science. Sometimes, it appears "red in tooth and claw", destroying the human life and civilization. Man's urge for authority and his desire to gain control over his fellow-men have compelled him to turn this boon into a bane. He has invented the disastrous war weapons that can annihilate the whole world in no time. (within a blinking of an eye) Though the world is trying to solve the disputed issues through peaceful talks, we are standing at a position where the gongs of total destruction are constantly clamouring. The most deadly weapons of science are the tanks (invented by Swinton), Torpedo atomic submarines, bomber aircrafts like F-16 fighting falcon, tornado GR-1 B-52, etc. Above all, atomic bombs and Hydrogen bombs are the threats to the human existence in this world.

"Fissuring the atom,
You have learnt to weep and wail
In a loud tone,"

(Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi)

The world has already witnessed the destruction caused by the atom bombs in Heroshima and Nagasaki, where 70000 people were killed in Heroshima and 1,36,900 people were perished in Nagasaki. This "large scale mess" is really frightening.

"No eye could look
The explosion that took
The lives of two glories
In the moments of furies."

(John Peter)

As all the countries are linked socially, economically or religiously, any war may be a world war. In the world "Might is Right" has become a "world order". The invention of Chemical and Biological weapons is a heartrending fact. The use of Chlorine gas and Mustard gas in First and Second World War and later in America-Vietnam War devastated the nations. Similarly, in fourteenth century, the use of Plague germs was a common practice to wipe out the enemy nations. In the twentieth century, Japan used the same method against Chinese to topple them. It is science which is to be blamed for the creation of germ warfare and chemical bombs, missiles and bombers.

"Our scientific progress has outrun
Our spiritual power. We have
Guided missiles, but misguided men."

(Martin Luther)

Science has invented many tools and machines for man. Though these machines are helpful in making human life comfortable they also have some disadvantages. (as there is no rose without thorn) These machines have replaced man in many fields of life. The plus point for these machines is that they are more accurate and quick in performance than man. (they are more quicker and more accurate than man in performance) But they have made the services of man

slow and therefore unnecessary. Man has become unemployed. Unemployment is the sure cause of many social and economical evils. Thus, the process of fall of human society starts.

The next negative effect of the use of machines is that man has become lazy and idle. He needs not to travel on foot. He can cover long distances in a short time by fast moving cars, buses, trains and aeroplanes. At home, there is no need of broom, the vacuum cleaners are there to suck the least dust from every (nook and) corner. Washing machines wash the soiled clothes in (a matter of) minutes. There are computers for his service. There are T.V., D.V.D. and digital receivers for his entertainment. All kinds of facilities have made man idle and lazy.

**"One machine can do the work
of fifty ordinary men.
No machine can do the work
of one extraordinary man."**

(Elbert Hubbard)

Science has made man spiritually dead. He has become "A Hollow Man". Man has forgotten the moral and spiritual values of the past. Science is also responsible for the race of money. Everyone is busy in earning for spending. We have "no time to stand and stare." We have no time to meditate on nature. We are leading an artificial life. We are no more interested in the sights of nature, "the Lap of Mother" as William Wordsworth said.

**"No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:"**

(William Henry Davies)

Science has made man selfish and insincere. He needs money to enjoy the new inventions of science. To earn money, he ignores the moral values. Even, sometimes, he commits hateful crimes for the fulfillment of his evil desires. When morality dies, the crimes of various kinds take birth and social evils prevail in society. Thus science is indirectly causing the spread of these evils in society.

Using scientific methods of Cloning, artificial selection, new diverse varieties of plants and animals have been introduced. But these "alien" plants and animals introduced by human agency is causing extinction of native species and also diverse economic, aesthetic and human health problems.

In this age of pollution, we are suffocating to death. It is one of the grave problems. Air, water, land and eatables, all are polluted. Science is somewhat responsible for this problem also. Big factories, heavy vehicles, trains and tanneries are adding smoke, poisonous wastage, dust and other harmful particles to air, water and soil. These polluted things have caused many untreatable (incurable) diseases.

There are more than 200 tanneries operating in Kasur city. The industry discharges 9000 cubic metres of waste water daily into the nearby water bodies. In 2003, a survey showed that two-third (shows that two thirds) of residents and 72 percent of tannery workers suffered cancer infections of the kidney, loss of eyesight. Tests showed that the drinking water was contaminated with lead, mercury and cadmium. This is one of the horrors of science. A number of scientific inventions that can be used to ameliorate the lot of lots of naked, hungry and homeless people are being used to multiply their miseries and misfortunes.

"Ashamed is humanity of the wounds it gave."

(P.B. Shelley)

In fact, it is the "evil genius" who converts the benefits of science into destructive products. Science is a blessing; the need is that we should use it positively. Science has not forced us to produce lethal weapons nor has it compelled us to be selfish. If we have used it for evil purposes, it is our fault not of science.

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32. T.V. - AN IDIOT BOX

Essay Writing

Recent generation can never envisage the fun, excitement and passion of the people who gather round the television in their living rooms and get glued to it as long as their time permits. The days are still missing the time in deep nostalgic time when they observed the roads all empty and desolate at the time of drama serials of T.V.

Expressing our minds has been one of our basic necessities. We look for different means and medium that serves the purpose. The television, the T.V., the idiot-box, the electronic babysitter, the magical screen in our living-rooms which has brought us news, sports, weather, education, entertainment, excitement, bemusement and rage, has come a long way since its inception. Nearly 100 years ago T.V. broadcasting started in the 1930s and Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first American president, a political figure, to appear on television, at the 1939 New York World's Fair. Since then T.V. has been a sole emperor of the realm of almost every ambit of human activity.

One can argue that T.V. has lost its impact and importance in the recent era as the flood of electronic devices studded with internet wen has overshadowed the role of T.V. in our lives. Apparently, the argument is valid but we cannot deny the fact that it is sort of a T.V. screen that is visible everywhere in almost every modern electronic gadget. No matter it is mobile's screen or telephone LCD screen or laptop screen or the over head projector screen, the basic concept of moving images discovered by Mr. John Logie Baird speaks volumes of the evident existence of T.V.

The word 'television' comes from the Greek word 'tele' meaning 'from afar'. Just like how telephone, and telegraph mean sounds, and writing, or messages, from afar, television means pictures from afar. Once, the ancient rulers of greater Persia used to divine by crystal gazing. The cup of Jamshaid was a magical crystal cup that showed the seven layers of the world. The recent television is the exact extension of the cup of Jamshaid that is available to everyone now. We can put the whole world on our palm now. The world has shrunk to our television screen; with just a click we can access anything anywhere.

Television has got a status of our family members. There would be hardly any family without it. It is a reliable friend of everyone at home. As everything has its own barbs and bouquets so does the television, the very positive **feature of T.V.** has now become an indispensable social dilemma. Parents of the present generation are greatly worried by the fact that their kids have become addicted to television. Ironically the complaint of the parents is hilarious as they themselves are the victim of the captivating colourful screen that keeps them busy, showing different world of nonstop entertainment and enjoyment. Keeping the importance and influence of T.V., it is widely used to propagate the typical opinion in the country. Even it is considered one of stake holders of the country. The use of T.V is so rampant that our kids have developed a sense of being neglected. The concept of unity is also getting rare. Everyone is busy in his framed life and busy in hatching his own web of thoughts concerning least with other family members. This word of T.V. is too much with us.

As far knowledge imparting is concerned T.V. is not playing its role in true sense, rather it is producing a lot of idiots who don't use their mind and follow whatever is shown to them. That is the reason T.V. is called idiot box. So, please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your T.V. set away, and in its place you can install, a lovely bookcase on the wall."

(Ronald Dahl)

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33. POPULATION EXPLOSION

*A finite world can support only a finite population;
therefore, population growth must eventually equal zero.*

(Garrett Hardin)

Population is growing at a terribly fast pace. Statistical data predict if population goes on increasing at the present pace, there will only be enough room on the earth for people to stand on. Population has increased tremendously in the last few decades. Almost all the specialists in different fields agree that population increase is very harmful to the progress and prosperity of people living on this planet.

Increase in population is because of many factors. The most important factor is ignorance of people. They do not know what hazards are posed by a rapid increase in population. They have no idea that, in the long run, it will affect their life standard and overall progress of the country. But now, their concern for their health and hygiene has increased much. They are more cautious. Better cure and treatment is available. In the two World Wars, millions of people were killed. This led to reduction in population of the countries which were engaged in the war. No geographical wars are going on but their total effect on the world's population is not significant.

Increase in population is much higher in under-developed countries. Here schools, colleges, and hospitals are few and far between. There are no modern facilities or opportunities for people to rise in life. People are superstitious and narrow minded. Towns and cities are polluted and government officials are often corrupt.

It is the need of hour to take steps to reduce the rate of population growth. Rapid growth of population is going to usurp all our resources. Over population mars the efforts of the planners. No development programme can be enforced effectively without a check on the growth of population. It is better to have a fewer well educated, prosperous persons than to have hordes of uneducated and unskilled persons.

*Unique in human experience, an event which happened yesterday
but which everyone swears won't happen until tomorrow.*

(Brunner)

Islam presents a totally different view. It does not put a check on population growth. It encourages us to exploit the natural resources for the betterment of the whole human race. However, according to the Quran, there comes a natural gap between the births of children if the mother feeds her baby for two years.

We can stop the rapid increase in population through awareness programmes that include educating the people about the dangers of our population, giving people incentives for family planning and introducing laws that put check and balance on the birth of more than two children. The most important thing is the desire among the individuals to limit the size of their families, and that can only be cultivated through education and reeducation.

As a small country, both in size and population, our future hinges on the quality of our people.

(Massana)

zero.

(Garrett Hardin)

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34. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

As we go forward, I hope we're going to continue to use technology to make really big differences in how people live and work.

(Sergey Brin)

Information technology means the study or use of electronic equipment, especially computers, for storing, analyzing and distributing information of all kinds. Information technology is the need of the hour and its significance will increase all the more in future. It has made our access to knowledge easier. It has become part and parcel of the modern world. In Pakistan, information technology was introduced on a limited scale, but soon it became the need of everybody. Now almost every literate person, student, scholar, businessman, doctor and government official is enjoying the benefits of information technology. Today's world is changing fast and shaping anew. Old trends are giving way to the new ones. Information technology has brought a revolution in the world. Mysteries are being resolved and puzzles are being solved with the help of information technology. People are becoming more and more aware of the world they live in. There is more enlightenment for people now than it was in the past.

Information technology is now the order of the day. Latest techniques are being applied to get the maximum benefits from it. Now it is in the approach of all and sundry in Pakistan. We have realized that if we want to keep pace with the fast changing world, information technology is the right area for us to progress. Now information about anything is within our reach. It has opened up a new world to us.

It's pretty incredible to look back 30 years when Microsoft was started and realized how work has been transformed. We're finally getting close to what I call the digital work style.

(Bill Gates)

Internet has increased new opportunities to government, business, and education. Government uses internet for internal communication and the distribution of information. Business offers goods and services to customers. Many people use internet for shopping, paying, bills and online banking. Educational institutions use the Internet for research purposes. They also deliver courses to students at remote areas.

Apart from its negative uses, we can safely say that the future of information technology is very bright in Pakistan. It is doing wonders to solve the problems like disease, poverty, backwardness and lawlessness. It will help our students to know about what has been unknown for a long time. It will improve our image in the community of the world. It will show the world that we are not a backward nation and we rightly deserve to be called a moderate and progressive nation. The government in Pakistan is giving more and more incentives to encourage people in this field. It has tried to introduce it even in the small cities and villages. A sufficient portion of budget has been specified for it. So, we can say that information technology is among the top priorities of the government. Shakespeare once rightly said: "Nothing is good or bad; only thinking makes it so." Therefore, we hope that the positive uses of information technology will bring in progress and prosperity in our country. It can be a Messiah for the salvation of a nation from backwardness and ignorance. It can lead the people from the junk piles of ignorance to the highway of peace, progress and prosperity.

A fundamental rule in technology says that whatever can be done will be done.

(Andrew Grove)

35. ROLE OF MEDIA

"All of us who professionally use the mass media are the shapers of society. We can vulgarize that society. We can brutalize it. Or we can help lift it onto a higher level."
(William Bernbach)

Mass media is a unique feature of modern society. It includes all means of communication like the television, the radio, the newspapers and the internet. All these are a source of information, education and entertainment. Today, media is considered as the fourth pillar of the state all over the world. Lord Macaulay had given this status to media.

Media helps us to know about current affairs. Media persons put their lives in danger during their live coverage of terrorist attacks or natural disasters just to update us. This is how many countries are able to contribute to the affected areas. Without media our life is incomplete and is like a lamp without oil.

The debate on the role of media is, in fact, a debate on a changing world. Its role of updating and educating the people about the happenings around the world is of great importance. Media is just a reflection of the social realities. The importance of media is so great that it is viewed as the fourth pillar of democracy. It has a great role to play in the progress of a nation. It has to be very careful and responsible in its role. It has got to be free, fair and impartial in order to change our society and improve our living conditions.

I fear three newspapers more than a hundred thousand bayonets.

(Napoleon)

Media can be used as a weapon against all the social evils that hamper our national progress. It can prove very helpful in bringing about unity among the masses. Media has the power to criticize and pressurize the wrong doings and wrong policies of the government. It not only informs, educates and entertains people but also moulds public opinion. It basically works towards the betterment of the society as a whole. Without the active and positive role of media, our nation will remain handicapped. It will be like a ship without a captain.

It has awakened man to live in peace with himself and with the forces of nature around him. It has made us enlightened and broadminded, and it will continue to change our outlook towards things. It has made the world a global village and has brought people closer to one another.

The world has already changed significantly, and the change is still going on. People are becoming more and more aware of their rights and liabilities. Wrong doings now remain no longer hidden. Though corruption seems to have permeated the very social fabric of our society, the corrupt people are being exposed through media to people. Thus, true democracy is impossible without the role of media. Media's fair role will surely change the diseased society into a healthy one.

The goal here is to build a brand around social relevance in media.

(Jeff Skol)

36. INFLATION (PRICE HIKE)

Essay Writing

"Money is power, freedom, a cushion, the root of all evils, the sum of blessings"

(Carl Sandburg)

Inflation means general increase in price or increase in the supply of money. Inflation is a broad, variable and complex term. Only economists can have its better comprehension from economic point of view. It is hard to understand its various kinds for a layman. There is "Creeping Inflation". It is a healthy trend as it increases development. "Walking inflation" affects savings. "Running Inflation" is hard to control. It affects consumption and savings. It leads to economic recession. "Gallop or Hyper Inflation" is disastrous and fatal to economy. "Demand-pull" inflation is because of aggregate in demand of a commodity. "Cost Push Inflation" occurs when cost of production increases.

Inflation is not an unexpected and unpredictable phenomenon. Its seeds are sown because of mismanagement; weak or low market knowledge, indifferent attitude towards economic indicators, weak administrative machinery, absence or lack of check and balance, bureaucratic manipulation, inadvertent hoarding and strong association of the market leaders. Disturbance in demand and supply ratio is yet another factor.

Inflation is a menace in the poor or under developed or developing countries. It badly affects life standard of the people. It increases poverty and decreases purchasing power. Inflation creeps slowly into economic system and assumes magnitude by creating an alarming situation. Inflation destroys or disturbs market balance badly. World's richest investor Warren Buffet says,

"If you buy things you don't need, soon you will have to sell things you need"

Inflation increases unemployment and, as a result, not only skilled but also unskilled workers are laid off. It creates future social problems. It permeates into our social fabric and disturbs everything. Anxiety and depression are the immediate outcomes of inflation. It eats up purchasing capacity of people. It belittles the efforts done by the bread earners to meet the growing needs of their families. Inflation gives rise to dishonesty and corruption.

"The safe -way to double your money is to fold it over once and put it in your pocket"

(Frank Hubbard)

There is a popular belief that once prices increase, they never decrease. It is true to some extent. However, we can minimize the effects of inflation by concentrated efforts. Inflation can be controlled by a long term and short term sound economic planning. Market competition can bring about reduction in inflation. Local industry should be promoted to reduce inflation. Accessible and cheaper goods can minimize the adverse effects of inflation. These can also provide people with alternatives. This may affect the standard of living but people are protected against adverse effects of inflation. Proper monitoring and regulatory control can help in reducing inflation. Retailers and hawkers sell things of daily use at their own will. They do so because there is no check and balance.

There is nobody to enforce law and evaluate the prices at which things are sold. Inflation can be viewed as an international phenomenon. Only sound planning by the Government can avert it. Inflation is a misery and people can be saved from this misery through mutual effort. To sum up, inflation, in any form, undermines the very foundations of a social set-up. It makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. It carries the social stigma that breeds dissatisfaction among all the factions of a society. The government should take adequate measures to control this social evil.

I don't mind going back to daylight saving time. With inflation, the hour will be the only thing I've saved all year.

(Victor Berger)

37. DISCIPLINE

Some people regard discipline as a chore. For me, it is a kind of order that sets me free to fly.
(Julie Andrews)

Discipline is a controlled behaviour resulting from the practice of training of body or mind according to rules and regulations. Discipline is the spirit and spice of life. Life without discipline is a voyage in a shoreless ocean without maps and navigational equipment. Discipline is a force which unites all the efforts made by man to achieve something rewarding and extraordinary.

Even the creatures like ants follow discipline; these seem to be walking like an army, in a sequence to reach their destination and attain their cherished objectives. Birds fly in a pattern to realize their unidentified direction. All the living creatures seem to have a resolve to follow discipline. Water flows in a direction with a certain harmony among its droplets. It never observes any disorder or disintegration. All the creatures grow by following a pattern. The sun pours its rays downwards. The mountains have symmetry in them. Revolving planets follow a sequence. They rotate in their specific paths or orbits. The whole universe seems to be bound in a certain order.

Discipline is a symbol of caring to a child. Discipline is guidance. If there is love, there is no such thing as being too tough with a child.

(Bette Davis)

Our Armed Forces have a set schedule of training comprising different stages. Almost all the phenomena and processes have a certain mechanism or pattern. Discipline is very important for progress and prosperity of a nation. A well-disciplined nation can rise high in the field of technology, science and commerce. The ruling nations in the world display extreme discipline otherwise they would not have achieved status in the world. Nations that have well disciplined leaders progress with a rapid pace. We can achieve our goals and objectives if we are disciplined. Discipline conserves the resources and enables us to plan for our future needs.

Offering prayers five times a day gives us a clear message of organization and discipline. We follow a specific code of conduct and maintain discipline among us. Discipline gives us concentrated power. We can realize our aims if we are well disciplined. A disciplined person is a happy person who has clear understanding of his abilities, opportunities, available resources at his disposal and course which he has to follow.

An undisciplined person is wayward and a failure. He wastes his energy and depreciates his abilities. He tries to attain something but, without any proper and organized effort. What we achieve or lose depends a lot on our being disciplined.

To conclude, it is the fact universally acknowledged that without discipline life on this earth will be a complete chaos. It restrains and channelizes our energies in positive direction and lends charm to otherwise charmless objects.

Age acquires no value save through thought and discipline.

(James Truslow Adams)

38. PROBLEM OF ILLITERACY

"Read in the name of thy Lord who created."

(Al Quran)

The first revelation on the prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) aptly reveals the importance of education. Education and civilization are broader in their sense and practice. They are co-relative. The nations which have high rate of literacy progress rapidly and are now leaders in the world.

"Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army."

(Edwerd Everett)

It is commonly observed that people who are educated have better understanding of the governance. They are prone to act on the principles more accurately than those who have no formal or informal education. Following the rules or principles ensures smooth flow of the affairs in any society. On the other hand, illiterate persons or masses disturb peace and order as they do not follow the principles, rules and regulations prevalent in a society.

"The most violent element in society is ignorance."

(Emma Goldman)

An illiterate person has a limited thought and narrow canvas. He does not and cannot think beyond a certain level. He is confined to his own interests and personal motives. He is unable to appreciate new aspects and possibilities. Illiteracy hinders his personal as well as collective growth.

"All the knowledge in the world is found within you."

(Anthony J. D'Angelo)

An industrial worker who has skill and has proper training in the related field can act for the good of himself and for his company. He is an efficient worker and can increase the production of that industrial concern. He is matchless in his performance. He works by using his skills and gains knowledge in a better way.

Illiteracy breeds crimes. People who are not educated do not have a clear idea of the importance of laws. They violate laws for their petty benefits. Illiteracy is the greatest threat to the integrity of a nation. Illiterate nations do not value their freedom. They involve in petty quarrels and disgrace their country.

"Some folks are wise and some are otherwise."

(Tobias Smollet)

There are many countries that have high rate of literacy even though they have limited natural resources and low per capita income. They survive in the world with grace and dignity. So, it is the level of education and literacy that makes a nation powerful politically, technologically and economically.

Education should be free for all the members of the society. Incentives should be given for those who have some financial problems. A programme of mass education can enhance the rate of literacy and wipe out the curse of illiteracy.

39. FASHIONS

A particular make, a shape, a style, or a pattern followed by most of the people may be called a fashion. It includes clothing, hairstyles, furniture, literature, jewelry and many other things.

"Style is the man," claims Sainte-Beuve, one of Matthew Arnold's heroes.

The above cited quote is one of Matthew Arnold's intellectual stances. Some people believe that it is not worth living without fashion. Everybody wants to appear fashionable and stylish, and he spends lots of money on his hairstyle, beauty products, dress designing and shoes. Fashions go on changing. One fashion that is in today may be outdated tomorrow. Fashions have been in the world since the beginning of human civilization. Fashion industry is not a new thing in today's world. Thousands of millions of people depend upon changing passions for their livelihood.

"We are shaped and fashioned by what we love."

(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)

Fashions usually take their origin in the west. In Pakistan also, there are parties and social gatherings in which people try to outdo one another by their fashions and styles. From the west these fashions reach the third-world countries. By the time people of the poor countries adopt these fashions, the westerns discard them and move on to the others, and thus the fashion industry goes on flourishing. Media has also contributed a lot towards fashions and fads. There are fashion shows, beauty contests and dress designing competitions in the form of catwalk shows, T.V. dramas especially soap serials on different channels like Star Plus. Movies and music shows have also triggered the fashion craze among the different classes of people.

Fashions and styles make us look attractive and different from other people but, according to Aldous Huxley, it is our inner-self or soul that makes us beautiful or ugly. If we are bored, depressed or morally decayed, our outward appearance will do nothing but reflect our soul. It is actually the purity and beauty of our soul that makes our skin glow and our eyes shine. Fashions are then only a disguise or a cover that hides our reality and make us look attractive outwardly.

Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months."

(Oscar Wilde)

The craze of fashions is mostly found among women and youngsters. A visit to college of today would indeed be an interesting experiment for those who wish to know something about the influence of fashion on men. Boys as well as girls spend much of their time on toilet. Female students go two steps further. They regard fashion as their special right. Girls have a natural and inborn love of pretty dresses and in college they get a real opportunity. Girls spend a great deal of their money on powder, cream and lipstick. Scents and perfumes are used by these Juliet to excite and stir their Romeos. Evidently such boys and girls do not take their studies seriously. They may forget the formulae of mathematics but they don't forget the names of the films. It is quite natural with women to beautify themselves. They should, however, give more importance to the purity of their soul than to their outward appearance. Beauty products, parlours, costly costumes and dandy shoes will not add to our attractiveness as much as do our peace of mind, contentment of our soul and spiritual happiness.

We should not, therefore, imitate the westerns or other people because the western culture and civilization are hollow and the people there are spiritually dead. I recall here the saying by a famous writer who says that we may have a fashion of our own if we retain our naturalness, innocence, and purity of heart and soul.

"Fashions fade, style is eternal."

morally decayed, our outward appearance will do nothing but reflect our soul. It is actually the purity of a cover that hides our reality and make us look attractive outwardly.

Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months."

(Oscar Wilde)

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(Saint Laurent)

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40. A JOURNEY BY PLANE

Life is another name of experiences which have been accumulated and passed on to us by the long epochs of glory of man's dedication and his quest for perfection. Every new experience broadens our horizons of visions and enables us to face the realities and challenges of life with perseverance, commitment and confidence. The vision of Icarus to fly with waxen wings was perfected by Wright Brothers after almost 2000 years and the dream to fly in the air began working wonders for us. The perplexing distances shortened and turned the world into a Global Village.

The journeys that were once thought to be never ending were encapsulated in time with the help of the astonishing invention of airplanes. Gone are the days when one had to travel for years to reach from one end of the world to another. Now, the travel of thousands of miles is a matter of hours.

All my life revolved around one desperate yearning to go to Makkah to perform Hajj or Umrah and last year God Almighty granted my wish with a huge shower of blessings by giving me an opportunity for Umrah. I was tremendously happy to travel from Lahore to Jeddah by plane. It was the journey of my lifetime.

After the preliminary arrangement of Visa, travel ticket and foreign exchange, I reached the airport with a thumping heart overwhelmed with ripples of ecstasy and permanent felicity. I viewed the place as a threshold to other mysterious and unknown lands and my mind was filled with gratitude for those who made everything possible. I fancied myself flying with wind in the huge iron bird that was there waiting for me to take me to my most memorable flight and fulfill my pilgrimage.

Boarding the plane after clearance from the immigration was an awful experience. The noisy engines, the comfortable seats and the smiling and welcoming faces added pleasure to my smooth journey. Once the door was closed the cool and calm atmosphere of the inside forced me to lie back and relax. The voice of the captain greeted us and made us aware of the duration of our journey. The sound of the divine prayer began to echo in the plane. The flight attendant announced the departure with precautions to follow. The plane initiated its runway distance to cover and took off with a jerk. It remained in an upward position for a while but steadied itself in the air for about two minutes. Soon after the departure, we were served cold drinks and edibles to enjoy the hospitality of the airline.

The time seemed to have halted inside the serene atmosphere of the plane. I, for once, was filled with an irresistible desire to talk to the people to concur my feelings but I settled in and began to visualize the coming moments iterating silent prayers. The next four hours seemed to fly. Once again, the pleasant voice of the captain made us aware of the landing on the Jeddah International Airport. We landed on the airport and I resumed my further journey by bus. My dreams to fly and perform Umrah were fulfilled.

41. CORRUPTION

"Corruption is like a ball of snow, once it's set a rolling it must increase."
(Charles Caleb Colton)

The simple meaning of corruption is to get work done by means of illegal gratification. It is described as the destruction of purity, honesty, or moral principle or as encouragement to wrong doings by illegal means. Corruption is also explained by the World Bank and Transparency International as *"the misuse of public office for private gain."* Bribery, oppression, favouritism, patronage, and fraud are the examples of corruption. It supports criminal activities such as drug bargaining, money laundering, and black marketing.

"Power does not corrupt. Fear corrupts... perhaps the fear of a loss of power."

John Steinbeck

A few years back, to participate in corrupt activities was something to be humiliated, and a corrupt doer was expelled. Presently, corruption is not considered any sign of defame. It has been so deeply interlinked into our social fabric that no one thinks much about it. These days the virus of corruption has penetrated into all the countries of the world. Pakistan is in a dreadful situation. Every department is corrupt and no one bothers to perform his duties honestly. Thus, people cannot get their basic rights. The funds and money instead of spending on public welfare are wasted in corruption. The development projects are not completed well in time because of corruption.

"Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely."

- Lord Acton

The causes of corruption are many and complicated. It is generally considered to be an aftereffect of weak governance. This is because the system has been let loose. The creeping up of those politicians who prefer their individual interests rather than nation-oriented policies, encourages exploitation. Change in the value system and ethical qualities of men also increase corruption. The old ideals of morality, service and honesty are regarded as outmoded. Lack of public protest against corruption allows it to reign over people. Overpopulation coupled with general illiteracy and the poor economic framework lead to corruption. The booming economy, low salaries of government officials enforce them to resort to the road of corruption. Complicated laws and extra formal procedures do not persuade the common people to ask for any help from government. Election time is a peak time for corruption. Influence for votes is bought through bribery. In order to get elected, the cunning politicians bribe poor uneducated people, who are trudging for two times' meal.

"Power attracts the corruptible. Absolute power attracts the absolutely corruptible."

- Frank Herbert

Corruption has many bad effects in the lives of common people. It gives birth to many evils in the society and causes many problems to the country. It dissuades the foreign investors. It leads to unemployment. It creates environment of injustice. It increases the crime rates and illiteracy rates. It gives birth to many social evils. It decreases economic developments and frustrates the public.

"Corruption is a hard cane that beats hard on a nation with deaf ears"

We have to seriously think how to eradicate corruption. This is possible if we give strict punishment to the corrupt, no matter whom. At the same time, the honest people should also be rewarded and honored. Concentration of wealth in few hands must be discouraged. People's confidence on state institutions should be restored. We should eradicate the root causes of corruption. Laws must be implemented. There should be fair judicial system and proper check and control on corruption. Anti corruption agencies should be strengthened.

"Public money is like a fish bone, it gets struck in the throat."

In short, it can be concluded that in order to make our nation free from the evils of corruption, we must uproot the very weed of corruption. We must launch a crusade for higher standards of ethics. We need to engender a culture that celebrates fame and fortune when it is the product of personal work and ability. The government should consider it on urgent and humanitarian basis. "When you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing-when you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you-when you see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice-you may know that your society is doomed," wrote Ayn Rand.

42. EXAMINATIONS

Examination is a purposeful written or spoken test of knowledge. It is an assessment to measure a student's knowledge, skill, aptitude or classification in many other topics. In other words, it is a way to weigh the abilities or skills of a person required for some specific field. As every system has its merits and demerits, same is the case with examinations. Some people are fascinated by this system and keep on singing the praise of its significant role while others seem to condemn to outdated and full of flaws system.

Examinations play a vital role in the selection of suitable people for appropriate post keeping in view their strength of knowledge and skill in the specific field. They help to examine the past achievements of the candidates so that they may work for the welfare of the country and its people.

"Examinations are a necessary evil; they bring out the best men and also best in men."

So, in this regard, examinations play an important role in the smooth and dispute free functioning of the institutions in the selection of candidates on merits, if held in true spirits. They make the process of selection not only easy but also justifiable.

"All condemn examination but cannot do away with them."

The imminent threat of examination does not let the students lose interest in their studies and they keep on working hard to keep themselves abreast of the up-to-date knowledge of the subject syllabus. In this way, examinations kindle in the students the interest and desire to keep themselves well prepared to be tested. They compel students to be regular and punctual in their studies to achieve desirable results.

Examinations cause a healthy competition among the students. The race of surpassing others results in proper learning, clarity of concepts and better presentation. They learn time management by division of time for various answers they are to attempt within the limited time. They improve their decision power by making the right choice on right time.

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Examinations improve our power of expression by providing the opportunity of expressing students' viewpoints on different given topics. They contribute in student's self-expression and power of communication that matters in their rest of life.

On the other hand, examinations also have their demerits and dark side. Churchill calls examination an inhospitable region where examiner exhibits students' lack of knowledge and

they are tested in the subject against their interest. Our examination system encourages cramming and memorization of few concepts instead of proper training and upbringing of the students. It hurts the true spirit of the examination and the students are unable to learn practical application, self-expression and self-analysis.

"Examinations are formidable even to the best prepared, for the greatest fool may ask more than wisest man can answer."

The restriction of limited syllabus limits and restricts the students to within the limited sphere and they are unable to explore the indefinite horizon of knowledge and education. They learn the shortcuts and techniques like guess work to cover the most part of the paper. Most of the time, they pass the examination "with flying colours".

"Our examination system produces students having a lots of marks but poor concepts."

Our examination system is the test of speed and not of brain. A limited time and few repeated questions cannot decide or analyze the true concept and real ability of the students.

"Great success in examinations does naturally not as a rule go with originality of thoughts."

The race of marks to excel other has developed negative competition among the students. It has ended the difference between fair and unfair. Cheating and use of unfair means has become rule in our examination centres. It means they mar the true spirit of education and purpose of examinations.

Poor and substandard system of marking also makes the exercise of examination useless and futile. Paper checking spoils the true spirit of merit by observing no difference of poor and excellent material. It all raises question on the usefulness and transparency of the examination system.

In short, examinations are a necessary evil and their significant role cannot be over looked. However, our examination system needs a lot of changes and improvements so that we may get the best out of it. If held properly, examinations can play their role in changing the fate of the nation and the country by providing the best suitable and efficient people.

"Examinations are an undeniable and indispensable necessity."

43. HORRORS OF WARS

War is not a new thing. Man is a fighting animal. Man is as quarrelsome today as he was thousands of years ago. However, modern warfare is highly technical. With the invention of gun powder war became more horrible than before. Now personal valour does not count. The weakest man can kill the strongest man from a distance with the help of deadly weapon of war. The enemies try to disrupt administration and shatter the inner peace. They damage roads, bridges, railway stations radio and T.V. stations. It is the most effective tactic in the modern war to cut off the supply line. Bombers, tanks, armored cars, thermites, vesicants and filling bombs are the few of the weapons of destruction. In this way modern war is hundred times more destructive than ever before. In the war 1945, only two atom bombs were dropped by the Americans on Nagasaki and Hiroshima and Japan was wiped out from the surface of the earth.

Modern war is not fought in the battle field. It is fought on all fronts, right in the country of the enemy. Cities are set on fire, towns are set ablaze, factories and plants of production are destroyed. In short the tide of civilization is set back. Modern war respects no treaty. It is carried on all sides, on the land, in the air and on the sea.

The corollary of a modern war is no less disastrous. There is not much difference between the victor and vanquished. The both face famine, pestilence and unemployment. Hunger becomes common lot. Only the black marketers flourishes. It undermines the very root of the economy of the world. It retards progress. Now the burning question of the day is how to stop the Third World War. The big powers have realized its needs. They have agreed to control nuclear weapons to promote international peace. The U.N.O. can play a vital role. Communalism racial prejudice and terrorism must be curbed as they are the root causes of war. In short, the modern war is the greatest curse of The Creator that can befall a nation.

44. OUR COLLEGE LIBRARY

Hold fast the dreams,
For if dreams die,
Life is a broken-winged bird,
That cannot fly.

(Longston Hughs)

Dreams provide a sketch and we keep on colouring these shades with all our efforts and struggles. Books are the quintessence and crux of the intellect and experience of the sane and sage personalities in the annals of history. Books are the gems and jewels that impart beauty and charm to human wisdom, intellect and personality. In this context, a library is a treasure house that houses these gems and pearls of wisdom and sanity. Books, lying in the deep shelves of a library are the silent livings which lay silent and sleepy there and wait for the jeweler who really knows their value and importance in real sense. Our college library is certainly one of such jewelry-stores that can adorn and embellish the minds and souls of the young pupils at large.

"I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of a library"

(Gorge Luis Borges)

The first thing that charms us is the building of our college library. It is quite an old one but it has a grandeur and grace in it. When we enter the library, an old sober and san clerk welcomes us with a smile on his lips. He seems to be as old as any book of classical age of Urdu literature. He is precise and sometimes curt to the on-lookers and casual visitors, but very civil to those who love books. Beside the reception counter, we can see the catalogue almirahs. These almirahs are specially designed to contain catalogue cards. One can easily search the desired book as well as its location if one knows the title or the name of the author of the book. On the left we have a spacious hall which is crowded with big steel almirahs, arranged in a unique style. These almirahs contain books of various categories. There are books on literature, social sciences, geography, geology, history, religion, economy, computer science, biography, translations, language, and astronomy. Each almirahs is numbered and has a title of category of books on its head. Every student is allowed to get two books issued in a week and he is bound to return them in a week time. Otherwise, he is fined for every passing day. Daily newspapers, magazines, digests as well as reference books are not issued. They are to be read or consulted in the library premises. The students get the books issued, study them and sharpen their minds and intellect.

My grandma always said that God made libraries so that people didn't have an excuse to be stupid.

(Jaon Bauer)

If we move to left, we have a large reading room. This room has a long table in the center, surrounded by many chairs. Here a clerk provides magazines, digests and other weekly and monthly journals to the students. Daily newspapers are also available here. The students are specially advised to study things in a most silent manner. Silence reigns here and the students and teachers are engaged in silent reading here.

Then we have a reference zone. It is again a big room, having many big almirahs in which we have bulky books of many volumes like encyclopedias, dictionaries and others. These books are not issued to the students. However, students as well as teachers are allowed to sit and read these books for research purposes. Here in the corner, we have the librarian's office. He is an old, sober soul having a lot of experience in book keeping and maintaining of library. He is very kind to the students and provides all out help and guidance to the students who are the research scholars in any field of science, social science or humanities.

Our college has recently developed an e-library as a section of the main library. In this section, we have many computer sets, linked with many e-libraries of the world through internet. This e-library has many soft-wares which provide the students and research scholars an access to the historically important books and even manuscripts. This section has opened new horizons of research for the students of our college.

The best of all these is the atmosphere which our library offers to the students. As soon as we cross the threshold of the library, our imagination is stirred by the fire of thirst of acquisition of knowledge and learning. We find everyone here engaged in quenching his thirst of knowledge. Here we imagine that the learning we have got so far is so meagre and insufficient and we come to know that we know nothing. This knowledge of insufficiency fills our souls with a fire and energy to move forward and navigate in the ocean of books and in this way, search and explore the new gems and pearls of wisdom and knowledge.

"Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve and contribute to improving our quality of life."

(Sidney Sheldon)

45. MY BEST FRIEND

Essay Writing

Yes, we come across many people. We see new faces every day. Friends come and go out of our life. People today have become so selfish that it becomes difficult to regard any one as your best friend. People whom you regard as your best friends often prove otherwise.

**"Friends are like melons
Shall I tell you why?
To Find one good,
You must a hundred try."**

(Claude Mermet)

A good friend is worth a million rupee, even more. A friend who can guide you in the shadows of life is needed in every phase of life.

There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship. (Thomas Aquinas)

I have several friends at my college. Some are my college fellows and some are my class mates. The best among them is Ahmad and he is my class fellow. Ahmad comes of a very respectable family. He is of my age but is a bit taller than I. He has very fair complexion, curly milky teeth and a pair of beautiful eyes. What more endears him to me is that he enjoys a very good health too. He has a very cheerful nature. I never found him rough and rude. His face is always smiling. Even if anybody abuses him, he never loses his temper. From his appearance and his behaviour it appears as if he were a saint.

From our habits we are hardly distinguishable. In studies, as in the games, he is above the average. He has a great aptitude for reading. So there's a sense of purpose and seriousness in his character. It is not to say that he is a philosopher. He is a great humorist as well. He makes a lot of good jokes. Whenever I am with him, I always laugh my head off. Sometimes he makes the whole class laugh by putting laughable question to the teachers, and by giving still more funny answers to their questions.

Ahmad is very neat clean and choosy in his dress. He likes to wear light colours. His dress gives him a respectable look. It shows he is not foppish at all, you never find an ink or dirt spot on his shirt. In hostel, we are room-mates. At college he sits beside me on the desk. We remain together for the most part of the day. We study together like Aristotle says,

"A true friend is one soul in two bodies".

Ahmad has been with me for four years. Other boys feel envious about our friendship, but we never quarrel. Ahmad is also very good at his lessons. He never neglects his studies. He never gives the chance to complain. In the last examination, he stood first in class. Although he is weak in some topics but he tries his best to make up his weakness. His father can well keep a check on him but he likes to be on his footings. He always lives up of his motto **"simple in vi-**

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Whenever I am hard up, he helps me even by cutting his own expenses. It is said "prosperity makes friends and adversity tries them" and like Shakespeare "I am wealthy with my friend" I remember how he sat by my side for 3 days when I was taken ill. I will never forget how he always defends me and stands side by side through every thick and thin. My friend is smart, active and honest. He is loved by the teachers and respected by all his fellows. He never waste his time. All his qualities attract me and I can not find such a friend like him.

It is a beautiful sensation that some one understands you and be grateful to you as you are. In form of a consider him the most precious jewel of my life. I hope he will remain in my life. In form of a true friend who loves, helps and sacrifices his interests without expecting anything in return. May our friendship abide forever!

"Choices define who we are? And Choices make friends."

46. MY COLLEGE

"Man is destined to learn and College is the best place for it"

The aspiring span of my life, I am spending in my Govt. College, Rawalpindi. It is centrally situated institution of the city, famous for its academics and sports. This college enjoys the privilege to be the largest college in the district. Our college is spread over thousands of the square meters. It also enjoys its traditional value.

College building is segmented into four major blocks i.e. Main block, Administration block, Science Block and Master block. There are seventy class rooms Overall. There are five well equipped major laboratories. College library is one of the enhancing elements. Main library along with departmental libraries is consist of almost more than seven thousands books. It is really a fascinating source to illuminate the minds of the students. Students are attached with the outer world by the facility of internet. The research and news are generally the topic of discussion among the students.

The scholastic aptitude of the teachers is really one of the sources of inspiration for me. They provide not only knowledge but a vision about a successful life also. All the teachers have a good command over their subjects. English is my favourite subject. We learn English in fun. Our worthy principal is also of the same subject. He pours magnetic energy into the students with his powerful speeches. His discipline is exemplary. He never spares the rotten eggs.

Scenic beauty of college is charged with two playing grounds. These grounds are usually filled with boys in break time. Cricket and football are the favourite games of the boys. Our college has different teams. Students take active part in it. For last two years, our college has been a sports winner in district. The flower beds and rows of trees, around the ground, give a splendid look. People usually come for a walk in the evening. Peaceful and calm atmosphere provide relief to everyone.

Along with the college, a great building of hostel is lies to the East. This graceful building carries 150 rooms in which about four hundred students reside. It gives a high sensation when roars of laughter come from I.V. lounge. This gathering provides the students an excellent opportunity to learn a lot regarding their social behavior. Food stuff and laundry are provided to the students here.

We love our college from the core of our hearts. Its respect, as our Alma Mater, will be borne ever.

47. MY IDEA OF A HAPPY LIFE

Every one of us aspires to be happy. However, there is no doubt about the fact that happiness and sorrow go hand in hand in life. Only a few lucky ones achieve the goal of being truly happy. Good wishes apart, Thomas Hardy goes to the extent of saying:

"Happiness is an occasional episode in the general drama of pain."

To me, happiness is in no way connected with material glory and eminence. One often comes across many a person who has immense power and pelf yet is craving for more, and is not satisfied with his or her lot. Feelings like hatred, fear, jealousy and intolerance spoil happiness. The habit of comparing and contrasting and the desire to become what others are, often leaves a sorrowful heart. Such negative passions are the outcome of not being satisfied with what one has. Inordinate desires do not let a person be at peace with life.

It is noteworthy that happiness is a relative term since the idea of a happy life varies from person to person. Some people think money is a means to happiness because it can help us satisfy our needs and wants. The bitter fact of life is that riches bring selfishness, greed, lust, dishonesty and falsehood, coupled with pride and worries. And where these things exist, happiness eludes. To many, power is a source of happiness. Again, it is a misconception. Power seldom generates happiness; it always instills fear. The hedonists find joy in senses and hold the Epicurian motto 'eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow you will die'. The hollowness of this view is borne out by the fact that excess of hedonism makes one sick. There are many who adopt an escapist approach towards life. They believe that asceticism is an antidote to the woes of the world. The approach sounds interesting but too impracticable to be followed in the real life.

I believe that the secret of happiness lies in wanting the right things first, in working hard and in giving more than in receiving. It would not be out of place to cite a Chinese proverb which encapsulates my idea of a happy life:

**"If you want happiness for an hour — take a nap.
If you want happiness for a day — go fishing.
If you want happiness for a year — inherit a fortune.
If you want happiness for a lifetime — help someone else."**

If we look around, we find many who are less privileged in terms of either health or wealth, or both. Life is a burden for them. They are in dire need of relief from pain and suffering. I am sure that even a small act of kindness can make a big difference. Leo Buscaglia holds

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around."

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48. PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

"A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work."

Colin Powell

Life is neither a bed of roses nor a bed of thorns. It is a roller coaster ride that has its wax and wane, highs and lows, peaks and valleys. There will be moments and days of your life that will be with you till the end of time; days of your success and perseverance attain heights of glory.

"At the end, one didn't remember life as a whole but as just a string of moments."

David Levien

The Annual prize distribution ceremony is always an occasion to celebrate the achievements of people who have attained excellence in spheres of academics and co-curricular. Felicitating the achievers not only serves to motivate them to surpass their own performance but also spurs on their peers to attain similar heights. Our Annual Prize Distribution ceremony was held on 27th March 2014. As I woke up at 8 O'clock that day, I smiled to myself, thinking how I had achieved an aspiration and how my vision had changed to reality.

"It is deeply satisfying to win a prize in front of a lot of people."

E.B. White

On the arrival, we were given auspicious reception. The stage, adorned and embellished, was an evident confirmation of the hard work of the management. The dais was set on the right with the college Logo imprinted on it- 'light, courage and love.' Some chairs for the special guests were set in the centre of the stage behind the dais with a table in front of them on which there were assembled a multitude of flowers. Red ribbons twisting around the white ones like climbing vines, hung from the ceiling. These were arranged into intricate patterns at the base giving the whole panorama a new and characteristic look.

This stream of thoughts was interrupted by a voice which heralded the arrival of a person, which I assumed to be the chief guest. I asked the council member about it and he replied in the affirmative. Finally, the awaited event was going to start.

"Far and away the best prize that the life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Theodore Roosevelt

Soon the host came and took his position on the dais. He cleared his throat, which not only marked the initiation of the event but was also an indication for the audience to maintain silence. A student was called for the recitation of the Holy Quran. His melodious voice reverberated in the hall and seemed to pacify the torrent of emotions prevailing inside me. This was followed by the praises of our Holy Prophet (PBUH), which moved some people, including the chief guest, to tears.

Afterwards, a series of events followed and my anxiety increased as the ceremony progressed, my eyes fixed upon the cluster of gold medals which sparkled and shone like gold, with a white strap around them, the pile of certificates, and the aggregation of the trophies. I felt my heart flutter like a caged bird, my breath rising every minute.

'A real treasure becomes such only after it is been desperately sought after.'

They started it ultimately, announcing the names of the students who had emerged victorious and had not only been the means of pride for their parents but also a source to promoting the name of their college.

Richelle

I was all ears and finally they said it, the name which I wanted to hear. Slowly, I stood up and walked quietly towards the stage with my eyes towards the ground, muttering a little prayer. I could feel it, the merriment spreading through my soul. They handed me the award and placed the medal around my neck, it was still shining.

I looked towards the audience and saw my parents; their eyes welled up with tears, the smile on their faces which meant everything to me. They did not move or clap nor did I want them to. Their smile was sufficient for making me feel the most special. My father nodded and I nodded back. They were proud of me and I was proud of this mere feeling. A lone tear rolled down my cheek as I walked back, as quietly as I had come. I felt complete.

At the end, the host cordially invited the chief guest to come and say something to the audience. The latter waited in utter silence. The chief guest smiled in a fatherly manner, a smile which gave warmth and satisfaction and spoke in a voice which reminded me of warm milk and honey. The twinkle in his eyes reflected the happiness and ecstasy in his heart which he felt on seeing the students and addressing to them.

"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."

(Mae West)

The ceremony at last came to an end and we clicked many photographs to save them for our memory lane. The ceremony may have come to an end, but the rush, happiness, gratification, pride and honour is something that we will always carry. Such is the beauty of a Prize Distribution Ceremony.

priority. Ironically, most of the hydal power generation which is 6761MW was convened by the dictators. To add insult to injury, instead of increasing hydal power production capacity, the political governments chose thermal power production sources which are the last nails in the coffin of our exhausting economy.

In fact, it is the dependence on thermal power production that gave rise to the fiend of circular debt which has exacerbated the situation of energy crisis in Pakistan. In this vicious circular debt, Oil based power plants (GENCOs) owe money to oil suppliers, the government owned power distribution companies (DISCOs) owe money to oil based power plants that can only be paid if DISCOs get paid by all the consumers. And getting paid by all consumers across the country has yet been an uphill task. Moreover, the inefficiencies of government owned generation and distribution companies, cozy deals struck with providers of rental power plants, overstaffing, and free provision of electricity to Wapda employees, poor maintenance of plant equipment, obsolete technologies resulting in technical losses, corruption are also contributing indirectly in electricity load shedding.

Albert Einstein is absolutely right when he says:

"The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them."

Obviously, we will certainly have to upgrade our thinking level in order to find solutions for such a quandary. With the present evasive mind set, we are sure to aggravate the situation rather than solve it. Certain short and long term substantial solutions are required. As the short term solution, the government should purchase cheap electricity from China. The mismanagement of power distribution and generation companies should be rectified through special task forces. There government should show zero tolerance for electricity theft at any level. Daily business hours should be reduced to one hour at least.

Long term solutions require the enhancement in hydro power generation capacity and the use of alternative power generation sources. To enhance hydro power generation capacity, we need to build dams. Pakistan is a gifted country in this respect. It has such geographical features that can help us build dams with minimum cost. Only a nationwide strong and sincere political will is required to accomplish this task. The sweltering summers of Pakistan are also a blessing in disguise because we can use them as a means for getting solar energy. We are best suited and situated to use solar energy as the primary source of power generation. Although we have started using it on a limited level, we need to install it in an organized way. The Grid Tie System, if implemented in an organized way with the help of banking and private sector, can bring wonderful results. Quite a few areas in Pakistan are also suitable to use wind energy for power generation.

The most important thing for us as a nation is to develop an attitude of energy conservation even after having attained every kind of solution. Although facing the grave shortages of electricity, we are extremely extravagant in its use. The government can bring infrastructure to provide us electricity, but it is we who are responsible for its proper use. It is not something that the more we spend, the more we get. Rather in a world vexed by wars to seize energy source, we need to treasure it as a national property. In this regard, we should take the advice of Confucius who

"He who will not economize will have to agonize."